

Annual Report



Town of West Brookfield

For the Year Ending, December 31, 2010

DEDICATION

This Town Report is dedicated to Edwin P. Dow who showed his commitment to his country and community in so many ways.

Ed was an Army veteran of World War II and Korea and was awarded the Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Stars. He was a proud member of the Disabled American Veterans and the West Brookfield American Legion Post 244.

Ed cared deeply for his community and never hesitated to speak his mind at Town Meetings. He was also quick with the pen and wrote to local papers expressing his opinion on more than one occasion. He was a faithful and respected member of the West Brookfield Historical Commission for over twenty years, handling the committee's financial responsibilities with ease and efficiency. Ed was a great supporter of 4-H, and was an important member of the Worcester County 4-H Advisory Council.

He was devoted to his family, community and country, and his dedication and input will be greatly missed.

TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD

WORCESTER COUNTY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ESTABLISHED: 1660 – Quaboag Plantation
INCORPORATED: March 3, 1848
LAND AREA: 20.67 Square Miles
POPULATION: 3,350

LOCATION: Central Massachusetts bordered on the North-by-North Brookfield, Northwest by New Braintree, West by Ware, Southwest by Warren and Southeast by Brookfield.

TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES: Generally hilly terrain with elevation ranging from 598 feet above sea level to 1,206 feet above sea level. A relatively wide valley crosses the southern portion of the Town where the Quaboag River flows. Wickaboag Pond is the only major body of water.

ELEVATION AT TOWN HALL: 633 ft above sea level

SCHOOL SYSTEM:

Quaboag Regional School (Warren – West Brookfield)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st Massachusetts

John W. Olver, Congressman, Fitchburg

1-978-342-8722

UNITED STATES SENATOR:

Scott P. Brown, Senator

1-617-565-3170

John F. Kerry, Senator

1-617-565-8519

STATE SENATORIAL DISTRICT: Franklin, Hampden,
Hampshire, Worcester Counties

Stephen M. Brewer, Senator

1-617-722-1540

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT: 5th Worcester

Anne M. Gobi, Representative

1-617-722-2000

TYPE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

Town Meeting

Board of Selectmen – Three (3) Members

ADA COORDINATOR

The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 USC, 4151 et seq.) requires certain federally assisted buildings to be constructed so as to be accessible to physically handicapped persons and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC, 12101 et seq.) prohibits discrimination against the disabled individuals in private and public employment, public accommodations, public transportation, government services, and telecommunications.

The Town continues to utilize its Transition Plan to assist in its efforts to comply with ADA.

Respectfully submitted,
Johanna Barry, ADA Coordinator



ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee members are appointed by the Selectmen for three-year overlapping terms. We are charged with reviewing and making recommendations on all articles that appear in any warrant presented to the voters of West Brookfield. In calendar year 2010 we met twenty-one times, at an average of about two hours per meeting, to fulfill our responsibilities. Agendas for all of our meetings are posted on TVWB and agendas and minutes are posted on the WB web page. A voter budget informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2011, beginning at 7:15pm.

The Fiscal Year 2011 West Brookfield Operating Budget seems to be relatively intact, as state revenues are exceeding base line estimates. However, as expected, Fiscal Year 2012 presents some challenges. While the national and state economies are continuing to grow slowly, the preliminary forecast for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2012 state budget suggests that there will be \$1.5 – \$2.0 million shortfall in revenues. Support for cities and towns has already been reduced in the governor's proposed budget, and we await some possible further reductions in the legislators' budget recommendations. Local property tax increases are limited to two and one-half percent, and new growth in real estate activities and fee income sources will continue to be at the lowest levels we have seen in several years. This will mean lower financial resources to support our town and schools.

For Fiscal 2012, the Advisory committee has requested that cost of living salary adjustments, except for step and grade increases, be limited to 2%, and, also, that

budgeted expenses (excluding salary adjustments) be limited to 0% of the approved Fiscal Year 2011 budgeted expenses. However, contract negotiations have been concluded with the Police Union and the School District resulting in higher cost of living increases than we suggested.

Initial information from officials of the Quabog Regional School District indicates that the West Brookfield share of the state mandated school district minimum contribution budget for Fiscal Year 2012 will be \$83,718, or 4% more than the foundation budget we approved for Fiscal Year 2011. In addition, the District is requesting \$132,706 in additional funds above the minimum requirement. The school budget includes significant salary adjustments for the administrative team in an effort to ensure continuity for the next several years. While the Advisory Committee supports the need to retain talented staff and their program initiatives to date, we are having difficulty supporting the large salary adjustments all in one year.

Preliminary operating budget figures for Fiscal Year 2012, excluding debt and Water Department, are as follows:

Omnibus town department operating budget requests	\$2,557,798
Education budget requests	2,941,302
Article request for recurring items	384,115
Total recurring operating needs	<u>\$5,883,215</u>
Raise & appropriate funds	\$5,320,665
To be funded from other sources	562,550
Total funding needed	<u>\$5,883,215</u>

Due to the prudent financial management of this and prior Advisory Committees, the Town of West Brookfield has some financial resources for funding budget priorities in times such as these. However, these funds are declining, as we continue to use them for operational needs. Part of the \$259,443 Free Cash On Hand (a few years ago free cash was over a million dollars) plus some reserve funds, will be used to fund the amounts needed above our expected income (referred to as “Raise and Appropriate”) estimate for this year.

West Brookfield is fortunate to have three Stabilization Accounts. The \$1,389,235 General Stabilization Account has been reserved for capital projects and the Advisory Committee has recommended that the account balance not dip below 10% of the Annual Operating Budget, or, currently, a minimum balance of about \$.6 million. At the May 2010 Town Meeting, \$276,000 was appropriated for the McRevey property transaction with the intention that a grant would restore that amount to the General Stabilization Account. That transaction did not occur, and the Advisory Committee will be recommending returning the \$276,000 to the General Stabilization Account fund at the Fall Special Town Meeting. We will also recommend that some capital expenditures be appropriated from General Stabilization funds and other reserves.

The \$251,286 Fire Truck Account was established for the purchase of a new truck. The \$2,153,194 Water Stabilization Account was created from the receipt of MTBE Settlement funds from various oil companies. The Advisory Committee has recommended that these accounts be used for upgrades to the aging well and water distribution system, but to leave a balance of at least \$1.5

million in the account until it is determined that there will never be an MTBE claim the town will have to defend, or pay.

During this last year, we requested all departments review their capital spending requirements for the next five years. We were provided with the following estimates:

Police & Fire Department facilities * Consulting study being prepared	\$3,500,000
Demolition of Remizewski property * Bids being sought	50,000
Library * New bookcases and carpet \$35,000, to be town funded and balance to funded with library endowment funds	73,500
West Brookfield Technology * Computer replacements	15,000
WB Elementary School * Building repairs and replacements	533,961
WB Elementary School Technology * Replacements and upgrades	166,525
Quaboag Middle/High School (WB share) * Building repairs and replacements	151,386
Quaboag Technology (WB share) * Replacements and upgrades	174,364
School Street Intersection project * \$85,000 Town funded and balance to be funded from grants	2,502,230
Highway Road Maintenance * Town and Chapter 90 funds	2,500,000
Vehicle Replacements * Fleet Account 2011 – 2014	496,804
Water Department – wells, pipes and filters	1,500,000
* Funded in part with MTBE Settlement	
Estimated Total	<u>\$11,663,770</u>

After lengthy discussions and significant reductions in the initial requests, we agreed that the Quaboag School Board should request a debt exclusion and enter into a 20-

year borrowing agreement to fund their capital and technology needs. Current projections suggest that West Brookfield's share would be \$1,026,236, to be offset in 2013 with a \$400,000 recovery from the state.

The West Brookfield Roads Committee presented their recommendations for \$2,502,230 in needed road repair projects. Of the four financing options, the Advisory Committee recommended financing an additional \$150,000 for Fiscal Year 2012 and thereafter give consideration to entering into a bond agreement and debt exclusion at some future Town Meeting.

We will be reviewing capital project needs in more detail during 2011 and 2012. We are also looking into grants, loans, and other resources to fund some of these items.

Our continuing updated vehicle purchase analysis for the next five years shared with voters at the town meetings has proven to be a useful tool. After discussions with department managers, we have deferred a decision to purchase a new fire truck for several years, and considered less expensive options for replacing other vehicles.

With all of our financial needs and limited resources, we are going to have to continue to carefully manage our budget priorities over the next several years.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Collings, Chair

Phil Landine
Diane Vayda

John Tivnan
Tom Schnare

Roy Roberts
Nicole Vongratsamy

ANIMAL INSPECTOR

Another year gone, and with it the Dairy Farms seem to be going out and the Beef Farms are coming in, as indicated by the increasing beef numbers. It appears that grass fed and locally grown beef might be the way of the future. The number of horses owned by individuals has also seen an increase. As always, it was great to visit with the people who raise and keep these various farm animals.

ANIMAL COUNT FOR 2010

Dairy Cows	-	Ponies	19
Calves	-	Donkeys	8
Beef Cows	173	Llamas	-
Calves	60	Goats	16
Steers	10	Sheep	26
Horses	73	Swine	10
Foals	1	Piglets	25
Mini Horses	31		
Foals	33		

Respectfully submitted,
Barry J. Nadon, Sr.

ANNUAL SALARY

Abair, Nickolas	\$344.00		Cassavant, Ryan	\$895.23	
Adams, Kenai	\$4,034.00		Cassavant, Wesley	\$47,052.38	
Allen, Sarah	\$38,114.40		Charron, Brian	\$3,236.80	
Allen, Virginia	\$2,836.96		Christakis, Margot	\$18,933.92	
Anderson, Beverly	\$293.25		Ciejka, Joseph	\$2,901.56	
Anderson, Scott	\$2,048.16		Cote, Rene	\$344.00	
Arsenault, Keith	\$29,688.62		Courtemanche, Elaine	\$2,599.57	
Arsenault, Marie	\$48,599.89		Couture, John	\$1,033.22	
Astrella, Marc	\$38,208.93		Daley, John	\$29,748.48	
Ayer, Richard	\$172.00		Demers, Caleb	\$117.00	
Ayers, Brian	\$4,858.98	D+	Deremain, David	\$110.96	
Ayotte, James	\$818.24	D+	Desantis, Christopher	\$516.00	D+
Bacon, Patricia	\$106.25		DiGrigoli, Dinnea	\$107.25	
Ball, Justyna	\$5,961.52		DiMaio, Elisabeth	\$23,277.59	
Barrett, Teresa	\$31,125.13		Dolan, Jane	\$1,699.80	
Barry, Johanna	\$55,934.20		Dolan, William	\$110.50	
Bassett, Rachael	\$2,732.98		Dorman, Kevin	\$1,500.00	
Bastien, Joanne	\$225.25		Dorman, Melvin	\$1,000.00	
Benoit, Jason	\$29,710.66		Duggan Jr., Herbert	\$15,840.91	D+
Benson, Robert	\$9,349.73		Dunivan, Kevin	\$149.18	
Bigos, Alan	\$25,315.15	D+	Durkan, Brianna	\$2,398.95	
Blood, Douglas	\$172.00	D+	Dustin, Brian	\$386.63	
Boos, Charlotte	\$38.25		DuVernary, Gilbert	\$344.00	
Boos, James	\$14.17		Eisenthal, David	\$1,600.00	
Bordeau, Keith J.	\$10,463.87		Frank, Nicholas	\$1,944.16	
Bordeau, Sharon	\$7,781.23		Frew, Betty	\$18,213.43	
Borlikoski, Charlotte	\$148.75		Frew, Michael	\$975.83	
Borlikoski, Colby	\$77.00		Frizzell Sr., John	\$800.00	
Brown, Marissa	\$3,567.18		Fullam, Brandon	\$1,089.36	
Brown, Trevor	\$76.50		Garin, Mary	\$42.50	
Burns-Jackson, Mary	\$9,057.59		Gogos, Paris	\$25.50	
Careau, Lisa	\$37,229.76		Gogos, Stephen	\$38.25	
Carroll, Derek	\$707.38		Gray, William	\$55.08	
Casey, Elsie	\$106.25		Green Jr., Richard	\$124.00	
Cassavant, Duane	\$43,236.16		Haire, Carol	\$178.50	
Cassavant, Mark	\$256.60		Harnois, Christopher	\$6,072.26	
Hartung, Kara	\$10,565.00	D+	Mochi, Marie	\$3,823.75	

Higgins, Devon	\$97.00		Murray, Joseph	\$344.00	
Higgins, Jane	\$540.00		Muska, Katarina	\$362.05	
Iwaniec, Eric	\$6,069.12	D+	Nadon Sr., Barry	\$4,454.02	
Jankins, Oliva	\$312.00		Nadon Jr., Barry	\$1,600.00	
Jankins, Shelby	\$312.00		Norden, Cynthia	\$29,155.95	
Jankins, Thomas	\$195.00		O'Donnell Mark	\$5,665.46	
Jansen, Ashton	\$188.60		O'Donnell Jr., C. Thomas	\$84,149.90	
Kane, Alexandra	\$2,423.85		Olson, Nancy	\$119.00	
Kelly, Ryan	\$344.00		O'Neil, John	\$2,000.00	
Kelton, Dorothy	\$38.25		Osborn, Rebecca	\$145.00	
Kemp, Tammi	\$31,579.20		Ozbayrak, Michael	\$38.25	
Kennan Jr., Richard	\$19,165.44		Paquette, Eleanore	\$148.75	
King, William R.	\$148.75		Paquette, Jason	\$800.00	
Kosla, Roland	\$344.00		Paquette, Lester	\$350.00	
LaMontagne Jr., Edwin	\$3,107.08		Parker, Harold	\$63,262.31	D+
Lacroix, Pauline	\$110.50		Pensing, Jacob	\$1,193.40	
LaFlower, Joseph	\$344.00	D+	Pensing, John	\$1,696.60	
Landine, Kevin	\$344.00		Pierce, David	\$7,585.08	D+
Landry, Joseph	\$2,105.28		Plante, Lynda	\$150.00	
Landry, Kathleen	\$51.00		Pontbriand, Ryan	\$5,863.06	
Lanier, Kaitlin	\$180.00		Potvin, Robert	\$38.25	
LaPerle, Charles	\$83,705.25	D+	Puduski, Donald	\$3,706.68	
Letendre, Matthew	\$53,185.48	D+	Ramos, Felix	\$559.00	
Loftus, Lynn	\$519.73		Ramsey, Sean	\$388.00	
Long, Christine	\$8,094.77		Roberts, Teri	\$16,478.93	
Long, Thomas	\$666.67		Rust, James	\$137.96	
Lupacchino, Patricia	\$1,634.06		Ryan, Gail	\$72.25	
Lupacchino, Paul	\$11,648.97		Santos Jr., Daniel	\$4,618.65	
Lyons, Pasqualina	\$212.50		Saria, Andrew	\$303.90	
Mank, Tracey	\$142.27		Sauve, Geraldine	\$5,054.93	
Mansfield, William	\$1,500.00		Searah, Dana	\$1,494.05	
Marchessault, Ronald	\$73,001.52		Sefton, Nancy	\$148.75	
Marco, Carl	\$306.40	D+	Sefton, Michael	\$516.00	
Mawhinney, Eric	\$2,654.87	D+	Shattuck, Leah	\$3,499.56	
McCarthy, Kristin	\$687.60		Simeone, Gary	\$10,481.75	
McNeaney, Jason	\$440.64		Sokol, Laurie	\$114.75	
Merriam, Jesse	\$2,394.45		Spera, Robert	\$3,738.96	
St. Denis, Norman	\$775.00		Ward, Edwin	\$48,266.93	
Swain, S. Patrick	\$59,698.77	D+	Waterman, Gregg	\$37,728.91	

Takorian, Holly	\$28,096.80		Wentzell, Lee Anne	\$2,282.90	
Tatro, Clifton	\$344.00		Whitehouse, Louise	\$110.50	
Taylor, Jeffrey	\$13,915.00		Willey, Tammy	\$344.00	
Tebo, David	\$2,766.75		Wrobel, Jean	\$20,757.14	
Thomasian, John	\$7,950.00				
Tivnan, John	\$148.75				
Valois, Armand	\$89.27				
Veinot, Joan	\$1,300.00	D+			
Walker, Peggy	\$50,037.02			\$1,487,103.73	
Code: D = Detail Pay D+ = Detail plus salary					



ASPARAGUS & FLOWER HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The annual festival was held on Saturday, May 15, 2010 on the Town Common from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Co-sponsors of the event were the Quaboag Historical Society and the West Brookfield Historical Commission. This year's event attracted over 100 vendors, non-profit organizations, and exhibitors. Food vendors provided a great variety of food, including asparagus dishes, while growers offered asparagus roots and fresh asparagus.

The Cultural Council organized a great variety of new games this year. These, along with the Frog Jumping contest, provided great fun for the children. New this year was "*Ed the Wizard*," who roamed the common, and the Spencer Bank Train. These were a great success as were the pony rides, which were free this year. Dick Chase provided music for the event, and Samantha Gillogly fiddled in the afternoon.

Joan Veinot coordinated the "*May Pole Dance*" with the Betty Gunderson Dance Studio, and Samantha provided violin music. The Committee once again provided a small scholarship to the dance studio for a student.

We once again thank the Cultural Council, dancers, musicians, and the Highway Department. Thanks also to Rudy Arn, who portrayed Diederick Leertouwer.

Committee members in 2010 were Kara Bigda, Amy Dugas, George and Elaine Hibbard, Cindy Laub, Dick and Barbara Rossman, Jennifer Sablack, Claudia Tourigny, and Joan Veinot.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Rossman, Secretary



BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Our town has 2,481 parcels:

1,381	Residential Improved Parcels
884	Vacant Parcels
93	Commercial/Industrial/Mixed Use Parcels
123	Personal Property

The value of all taxable property for Fiscal Year 2011 was \$365,895,882 and our new growth for fiscal Year 2011 was \$3,281,678. The Fiscal year tax rate is \$10.94 per thousand. We are still calculating one debt exclusion in our tax rate for Bonds for West Brookfield Elementary Renovations.

The return of \$154,445 by the Quaboag Regional School District in Warren was part of an original \$18.7 million debt exclusion for a reconstruction project at Quaboag Regional. This return was used to lower the fiscal 2011 tax rate.

The Assessors conducted a complete Revaluation of all property in the town for Fiscal Year 2011 with the assistance of a real estate consulting firm. In the past, the Revaluation has resulted in large increases in the assessed value of properties because the adjustments were made every three years. However, the State Department of Revenue now requires interim year adjustments, which have resulted in much smaller fluctuations in assessed values.

In addition, the Assessors continue to implement the State Law passed by the Legislature (Chapter 59, Section 2D), which allows towns to issue supplemental real estate tax bills to property owners who make improvements to their property equal to more than fifty percent (50%) of the property's prior value. These bills are triggered by the

issuance of occupancy permits and pro-rated according to the date on the occupancy permit.

The Assessors continue to work very closely with the Building Inspector, as the town requires building permits on almost all improvements made to your property. These building permits aid in correctly valuing a property's worth. Upon notification by the Building Inspector of permits issued, the Assessors will visit the property to verify and photograph it. Prior to our inspection, the property owner will receive a questionnaire from our office for them to complete. This will assure us that our records are correct. ***We ask that anyone who receives one of these questionnaires takes the time to complete it and return it to us.*** When these forms are not returned to our office, we cannot make the necessary changes to ensure that the information we have on file is accurate.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

The bulk of information used in the Assessors' Office is indexed by address. **It is essential that you inform our office of any changes in your address as soon as the change occurs.** It certainly will help us to serve you more efficiently and prevent the necessity of duplicate mailings at an added cost to the taxpayers.

In addition, if a property owner has a Post Office Box number, it is imperative that we have this for our records. The Post Office in West Brookfield **will not** deliver mail without the correct Post Office Box number. If you are not sure that we have your box number on file, please contact this office for verification.

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX BILLS

Many people come to our office with questions regarding their Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Bills. The Registry of Motor Vehicles sends computerized data to all towns and the bills are then printed and mailed from the Tax Collector's Office. The information you receive on your bill is based on data the Registry of Motor Vehicles has in their files for any calendar year beginning January 1st. Please pay particular attention to the ***"Garaging Location"*** on your insurance form. If you have any changes in this location or in any other information, you must notify the Registry of Motor Vehicles so that your license, registration, and Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Bills are correct. This also ensures that you receive a bill at your correct address.

In addition, if you have sold a motor vehicle during the year, you may apply for an abatement of your excise bill by completing an application and providing our office with proof of sale, as well as a copy of the Plate Return Receipt, or new registration if you transferred your license plates.

Our door is always open and we welcome any comments or questions. We are proud to provide a very personalized service to you and enjoy the opportunity to meet with many of you throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
William Mansfield, Chairman
Kevin Dorman
Peggy Walker, Clerk
Elisabeth DiMaio, Secretary

BOARD OF HEALTH

During the past year, the Board of Health has generated approximately \$15,627.00 through various required permit fees. The fees are as follows:

Septic	\$200.00	Perc	\$150.00
Septic Installers	\$ 50.00	Septic Haulers	\$ 50.00
Trash Haulers	\$ 50.00	Retail Food	\$ 50.00
Food Service	\$ 50.00	Food Catering	\$ 50.00
Milk	\$ 10.00	Body Art	\$180.00
Tanning	\$ 15.00	Outdoor Boilers	\$ 75.00
1-day Food	\$ 10.00		
Farmers' Market (includes Asparagus Festival)			\$ 35.00

The Board of Health issued the following permits:

1. Twenty-two Perc Permits
2. Nineteen Septic Permits
3. Thirty-five Food Permits
4. Fifteen Milk Permits
5. Two Tanning Permits
6. Eighteen Septic Installer Permits
7. Three Motel/Campground Permits
8. One Mobile Home Park Permit
9. Two Pool Permits
10. Four Septage Hauling Permits
11. Three Trash Hauling Permits
12. Twenty Farmers' Market/Seasonal Food Permits
13. Two Bathing Beach Permits
14. Three Outdoor Wood Boiler Permits

The West Brookfield Board of Health contracts its medical services with Harrington Hospital, and with their expert guidance the town held a second mass Immunization Clinic with the Town of Warren for the H1N1 flu at the Quaboag Regional High School during January. Several residents volunteered their time to help make it a success. Thank you for your generosity.

One hundred and twenty-five (125) seasonal flu shots were given on October 14, 2010.

The Town of West Brookfield has a low interest loan program for the repair of septic systems. Contact the Administrative Assistant for further information.

Many hours have been devoted to studying the issues that could lead to **the dredging of the North Cove of Lake Wickaboag**. Town officials, working with representatives of the Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association, have been studying the Mill Brook flow of sediments into the north end of the Lake and the feasibility of dredging the north end of Lake Wickaboag. Several consultants have recommended that hydraulic dredging be considered as a means of reducing the phosphorous rich sediment that supports weed and algae populations, as well as increasing the area for recreational purposes. Other studies have focused on the continued flow of sediments into the lake and the programs that might limit future flows. Town officials believe that there may be an integrated solution to these two issues by dredging. Apex Inc. won the consulting contract to do the following:

1. Develop a conceptual plan for the hydraulic dredging
2. Analyze the sediments
3. Apply for the needed permits
4. Find funding sources

Phase 1 of the consultants work has been completed. A detailed Phase 1 report is available upon request.

Hazardous Waste Day is once a year in September at the North Brookfield Transfer Station. ***Latex paint is not accepted. Dry the latex paint in the can with a mix (purchased at any hardware store) and dispose of it with the normal trash.***

The Board of Health wishes to remind all residents that it meets on the **2nd** and **4th Tuesdays** of each month at **7:00 p.m.** in the West Brookfield Town Hall, Room LL4. The public is invited to attend.

The Board of Health telephone number is **867-1421** Ext. **310**. Our office hours are as follows:

Monday: 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday Evening: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Title V Agent – John Thomasian

Health Agent – Joanne Petterson-Bernier

Administrative Assistant – Sarah J. Allen

Clerk – Virginia Allen

Respectfully submitted,
Melvin Dorman, Chairman
Jason Paquette
John Frizzell

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Information for the year ending December 31, 2010 is as follows:

TOTAL POPULATION: 3,350

VOTER REGISTRATION

American Independent	2
Democrat	597
Green-Rainbow	2
Inter 3 rd Party	2
Libertarian	9
Republican	374
Un-enrolled	<u>1,531</u>
Total Registered Voters	2,517

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah J. Allen
Jane Dolan
Robert Spera



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

As always, our Board placed priority on the effectiveness of financial management of the town. This was accomplished while attempting to maintain or improve the standing portfolio of essential municipal services.

COMMUNITY

The Board authorized the Police Chief to close School Street on Saturday, October 2nd from 7am until 5pm for the Lawnmower Races on the Town Common. The Board also allowed the Police Chief to temporarily close Routes 67 & 9 during the day to accommodate the Lawnmower Parade.

In October, the Conservation Commission informed the Board that they had voted to expend a small amount of money in support of an APR on Walkers Farm; located on New Braintree Road.

CONTRACTS

In July, the Board awarded the FY11 Elevator Maintenance Contract to:

Worcester Elevator Co., Inc.	\$948.00 Yr.	1 Year Contract
		Four (4) Examinations per year
		\$400 State Inspection Not
		Included

In August, the Board voted to award the installation of surge protective devices for \$2,595 and the lightning protection for \$12,300 to Smokestack Lightning, Inc.

On September 21st the Board voted to authorize the Chairman to enter into a cooperative Service Agreement with the USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services for \$2,500.00 to assist with beaver control.

Upon recommendation by the Highway Superintendent, the Board voted to accept the low bid, being Elliott Tree, for tree removal on Wigwam Road. (Phase I: \$26,500 and Phase II: \$20,000)

FINANCES

On March 2nd, Al Collings, LWPA President, gave an overview of a proposal to create a trust, under the management and control of the town, for the purpose of maintaining and improving the water quality of Lake Wickaboag as outlined in his memorandum dated 26 February 2010. The Board agreed to set up a Lake Wickaboag Gift Account as described by Al in his memorandum dated 26 February 2010.

Mr. Thomas Scanlon, Town Auditor, provided the Board with a very positive audit; stating that the fiscal condition of the town was very sound. Mr. Scanlon praised the Board, Advisory committee, and other financial employees for their part in the excellent management of the town's finances.

On April 20th the Board agreed to recommend Outstanding Performance Stipends for the following Highway employees: Marc Astrella and Duane Cassavant \$1,500 each; and Gregg Waterman and Brian Charron, \$500 each. The stipend is for those Highway employees who worked on the Highway facility expansion project, and who are still employed with the town; excluding the Superintendent who holds a managerial position.

The Board agreed to recommend a 2% COLI for all non-union employees.

The Board agreed to purchase a replacement cruiser from MHQ for \$28,700 and to auction off the 2006 Crown Victoria.

On December 14th, the Board voted to accept Schmidt's base bid of \$96,500 for a backhoe; plus options 1, 4,5,6,8 & 10. The Board asked the Superintendent to check on the price of a 36-month warranty – which they will consider at a later date.

The Board agreed to trade the old backhoe in for \$9,000 – as offered by Schmidt Equipment Inc.

The Board agreed to send out an RFP with a \$5,000 cap to study Fire & Police spatial needs.

POLICY

In March, the Board discussed regionalizing procurement, human resources, and possibly the position of Hearings Officer, with the towns of Brookfield, New Braintree, North Brookfield, and Warren. After some discussion, the group agreed to allow staff at the Collins Center, UMASS Boston, to draft inter-municipal agreements for these three (3) areas; at no charge to the towns.

The Selectmen voted to revise the town's Bereavement Leave Policy on 2/9/10. (Revised language underlined.)

3. BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

Employees will be paid Funeral Leave only for the hours they were scheduled to work, with a maximum of 8 hours per day.

This will be paid when an employee is required to take time off due to the death of a member of that employee's immediate family. The immediate family, for the purposes of this contract, shall be defined as the employee's mother, father, sister, brother, child, spouse, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandmother, grand-father, or any other person permanently living in the household. In that event, such employee shall be granted three (3) consecutive working days off including the day of the funeral. It is understood that the employee would otherwise have been scheduled to work on such days. *An employee shall be allowed one (1) day off at his/her regular rate of pay for the death of a member of that employee's extended family. That day shall be the day of the funeral or the day of the service.*

The Board voted to adopt the following guide for Exercising First Refusal Option for C61, 61A & 61B Land:

**Town of West Brookfield
Procedure for Exercising First Refusal Option
On chapter 61, 61A or 61B Land**

This document is intended to serve as a guide for municipal staff, boards, and residents of the Town of West Brookfield, outlining general steps to be followed when landowners in town intend to convert or sell their Chapter 61, 61A or 61B land. In order to verify exact rights and responsibilities under this program, consult Chapters 61, 61A and 61B of the Massachusetts General Laws or a land use attorney, as well as town counsel.

On June 29th, the Board spoke with Sarah Allen, Town Clerk, regarding several changes impacting the town under the new Open Meeting Law. The Board discussed purchasing an exterior bulletin board for the Clerk. After some discussion, the Board agreed to instruct the Town Clerk to place all necessary postings in a three ring binder and place it outside of the Town Hall or Library in an effort to immediately comply with the law. She was also directed to obtain quotes on a sufficient bulletin board system for installation in the garden area on the Cottage Street side of the Town Hall.

Mr. Gordon DeWolf, Conservation Chairman and Open Space Committee Member, gave the Board a brief overview of the Open Space Committee's activities relative to updating the Open Space & Recreation Plan.

The Board voted to allow the Highway Superintendent to take the F350 home during winter months.

STAFFING

The Board began Police Union negotiations on February 23rd.

On March 23rd, the Board voted to advertise the position of Highway Superintendent for FY2011.

On July 20th, the Board voted to appoint James N. DiMaio, 96 Hunt Road, as Tree Warden and Insect/Pest Control.

On September 7th, the Board voted to adopt the following charge for the Road Advisory Committee:

1. Assess all public ways in terms of their overall need for repairs, maintenance, or total reconstruction while considering usage, location, drainage, sidewalks, etc.
2. Estimate the costs for each project and then create a ten (10) year build out plan for corrective actions on the highest priority public ways. Please note that the Road Commissioners have already committed to Wigwam Road and Ragged Hill. Also, Lyons and Wheeler have been identified as “high priorities.” Use the *Chapter 90, Road Reconstruction & Road Maintenance* averages for the last few years as a benchmark; as all projects will be subject to funding.
3. Review current requests for private road repairs & paving. Estimate costs for each project and then create a build out plan using the *Repairs to Private Ways* account averages for the last few years as a benchmark; as all projects are subject to funding at town meeting.
4. Identify any grants for road projects.
5. Submit a final report by 1 July 2011 for the Road commissioners to review. Final decisions on road projects will remain the charge of the Road Commissioners.

Noting the recent passing of Edwin LaMontagne, the Board voted to appoint S. Patrick Swain as Veterans’ Service Officer on February 28th.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Daley stated that MassDOT had been in touch with him recently regarding the state of the School Street Intersection Project. The Board asked Superintendent Daley to speak with the MassDOT to inquire about placing an article on the May 2011 ATM for engineering costs, in an effort to let the Town decide the fate of the project. The Superintendent was asked to find out what MassDOT's timeframes were for this project.

On August 9th, Tree Warden Jim DiMaio provided the Board with a presentation regarding his recommendation on trees to be cut down on Wigwam Road in conjunction with the proposed road paving project. Warden DiMaio stated that he is recommending that 21 dead trees, 29 damaged trees, 10 dangerous trees, and 178 trees within a five-foot distance from the road edge be cut down. These trees include trees near drainage areas and culverts, dead, dying, and heavily damaged trees, trees with roots under the way that will be weakened by the reclaiming process, trees susceptible to wind damage, and trees that will hinder visibility, plowing, and mowing.

We appreciate and thank all town employees and all volunteers for their part in making West Brookfield such a great place to live. It is an honor and privilege for the three of us to service our town and its citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry J. Nadon, Jr.
Mike Frew
David Eisenthal

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Single Family Dwellings	4
Sheds	8
Additions	9
Roofing	15
Garages	5
Windows/Siding	17
Renovations/Remodeling	21
Stoves: Pellet/Wood	10
Pools: In-ground/Above-ground	3
Signs	2
Decks	4
Demolition	3
Barns	0
Pavilion/Gazebo	0
Antenna/Cell tower	0
ADA Ramp	0
Solar	2
Total	<u>103</u>

Total permit income	\$12,196.00
Estimated value on permits	\$2,318,828.00

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Taylor, Inspector of Buildings

BURIAL GROUND COMMISSION

The Board of Cemetery Commissioners consists of John Bartlett, Marjorie Reim, and Kevin Roberts.

The Cemetery Commissioners have the oversight of three separate cemeteries: The Old Indian Cemetery on Cottage Street, The Methodist Cemetery on Lyons Road, and the Pine Grove Cemetery on Church Street. The Commission's selected caretaker, Alan Bigos, maintains the cemetery grounds and buildings.

Reduced 2009, followed by restricted 2010, budgetary funding, has raised town residents' and Commissioners' concerns:

- Repair of fencing surrounding cemetery grounds, specifically fencing around the Pine Grove Cemetery
- Purchase of a Columbarium
- Purchase of additional burial grounds

The Cemetery Commission wishes to thank those who have cared for the lots of their loved ones.

As a reminder, in respect for our deceased, ***dogs are not allowed*** at any time on cemetery grounds. Please inform the West Brookfield Police Department if you witness any vandalism or suspicious activity.

We had 11 burials in Pine Grove in the year 2010:

From West Brookfield:

Philip Burdon
Leona Chapin

Leonard Gustafson
Warren Gresty

Out of Town:

Lillian Mayer, OH
Richard Schollard, Enfield, CT
Myrtle Clark, Dayville, CT
Paul Johnson, Belchertown, MA
Helen Hicks, Virginia Beach, VA
Shirley Gustafson, Townsend, MA
Lawrence Potter, Warren, MA

Respectfully submitted,
John Bartlett, Chairman
Marjorie Reim
Kevin Roberts



COMMON COMMITTEE



This year the common hosted many events for the 350th Quaboag Plantation Anniversary celebration, including a Croquet Social and Lawnmower

Parade. The always popular Asparagus Festival, Congregational Church Tag Sale, White Christmas event, and weekly summer band concerts continued to provide enjoyment to our community throughout the year. In addition, a local farmers' market began this past summer.

With the help of the Worcester County Sheriff's Department, the Helen Shackley Bandstand was painted. The Rice Memorial fountain was also painted by a local contractor. The tree maintenance program, implemented last year, continues to improve the health and appearance of our trees.

We would like to thank our groundskeeper, Al Bigos and John Bartlett of the Burial Grounds Commission, for their efforts in keeping our common functioning and looking beautiful. We would also like to thank Kip's Tree Farm for their generous donation of two Christmas trees for our Nativity display.

We look forward to another year of serving our town
as members of the West Brookfield common Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert J. Richard, Chairman
Teri Roberts, Treasurer
Sarah Allen, Secretary



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

During the year, the Conservation Commission was involved in numerous permits, site visits, and meetings regarding the enforcement of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. We held public hearings for twelve (12) Notices of Intent and six (6) Requests for Determination. We issued three (3) Certificates of Compliance, one (1) Beaver Permit, and one (1) Agricultural Preservation Restriction.

Resignations were accepted from John Hooven and Diane Oliver-Jensen. Eric Tunley and James Talvy were appointed to fill their vacancies.

Please visit our website at <http://wbrookfieldma.com>. All forms, as well as instructions for completing them, are located at this site and can be downloaded for your convenience. Minutes of our meetings can be viewed here.

The Conservation Commission wishes to remind all property owners that Massachusetts General Law states that any work proposed within 100 feet of any wetland and 200 feet from any rivers, streams, or lakes requires a filing of a Request for Determination of Applicability.

An Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program is also in place to assist and encourage the retention of the Commonwealth's best farmland. The program is a permanent solution for maintaining an agricultural land base for local food production. Chapter 61 and 61A provide tax relief for land in agricultural production, forestry, or recreation. Any interested landowners should contact the Commission for more information.

The Conservation Commission meets the first
Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Lower Level
Conservation Office in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon DeWolf, Chair
Richard Provencher
Brian Silva
Jesse Serrano
Christine M. Long, Secretary
Eric Tunley
James Talvy



COUNCIL ON AGING

We would like to thank the Council on Aging for their continued support and dedication to the Senior Center and our senior citizens.

In the year 2010, we introduced several new programs and expanded our “after hours” activities. Our Saturday breakfasts and cookouts have been well attended and enjoyed by many. We hosted a successful Fall Festival and took pleasure in hosting a White Christmas Open House. Our 5th Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner was a great success and well deserved by our veterans. This dinner was made possible by the Car Show and businesses/individuals who donated to this worthy program. We are deeply grateful! We very much appreciate the continued support from the community.

We are very grateful for our Friends of the Council and the Irving England and Jane England Charitable Trust Grant to purchase kitchen equipment. In addition, we are thankful to all who have donated items from our wish list in the *Silverstreak Newsletter*, including paper napkins, paper plates, small kitchen items, tablecloths, large cans of coffee, etc.

We continue to provide information and referrals, outreach, reassurance calls, and other individual services that help seniors and their families cope with problems related to aging. The Senior Center continues to offer the Medicar Program (medical transportation) and several clinics, including blood pressure, flu, cholesterol and other medical screenings, Veterans’ Agent, SHINE, and AARP Tax Assistance.

The mission for the Council on Aging of the West Brookfield Senior Center is to enhance the lives of our senior citizens by providing information, referral services, and opportunities for socialization and recreation.

Please feel free to contact us at our email address:

louluo53@wbrookfieldseniorcenter.net

Please remember this is your Senior Center to use and enjoy. We thank, once again, all our volunteers who have spent many hours setting up and cleaning up for all the special programs during the day, nights, and weekends. We are so lucky for our many volunteers who make the West Brookfield Senior Center the BEST!

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Norden, Director
Constance Pratt, COA Chair



EARTH REMOVAL BOARD

“Earth material excavation requiring a permit” is more than 500 cubic yards of soil excavated in any one year. Excavation incidental to the construction of buildings or other accessory uses and expansions may be exempt, provided that the quantity of materials removed shall not exceed that displaced by the portion of the building or accessory use below grade and all required permits by the West Brookfield By-laws and/or Zoning By-laws have been issued. Other exceptions are: excavation in the course of customary agricultural use of land for a farm, garden or nursery; excavation of material subject to a license issued under M.G.L. Chapter 40 Subsection 21 (7); excavation in compliance with the specific requirements of an approved subdivision plan; and excavation in the normal use of a cemetery.

“Earth material” includes soil, sand, gravel, stones, topsoil, peat, muck, loam, bedrock, or other earth materials from any land in the town.

The Earth Removal Board continues to manage three (3) active permits relative to Earth Material Excavation under Section XII Section 2 of the Town’s General By-laws.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Paquette, Chairman (Health)
Bob Lipovsky (Planning)
Mike Frew (Selectmen)
Gordon DeWolf (Conservation)
Richard Aube (Zoning)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Office of Emergency Management is responsible for assisting Town Agencies in both handling and preventing of disasters, whether natural or man-made. The office is responsible for the creation and annual updating of the Community Emergency Management Plan, and insuring the town's compliance with regulations adopted by both the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

During 2010 we continued our association with the Quaboag Regional Emergency Planning Committee. The committee addresses a wide range of issues from pandemic planning to hazard mitigation. As a group, we are seeking grants to update our All Hazard plans. We have also partnered and been working with the Emergency Management Offices in Warren and North Brookfield on sheltering issues. We continue to work with our Board of Health and the Regional Public Health Coalition on issues of mutual concern.

Respectfully submitted,
C. Thomas O'Donnell, Jr.
Director of Emergency Management



FARMERS' MARKET

The West Brookfield Farmers' Market (WBFM) had a very successful first season. We saw a consistent number of repeat customers, as well as many new faces, over the course of the summer and fall. The Market Committee interacted with the visitors throughout the season and felt that everyone fully enjoyed having the market in town. The following report is an overview of our first season and plans for the future.

Vendors

The market had between 17 and 22 vendors throughout the season. The Committee chose to limit the market to agricultural, food-based products and plants including, but not limited to, jams, honey, maple syrup, baked goods, meat, cheeses, perennials, annuals, and vegetables. There was something for everyone, and many folks arrived with empty bags, but left with them full. We plan on keeping the same number of vendors for the 2011 season because we feel the space really fosters a sense of community while providing people with a great selection of locally grown and made products.

Health Permits

The Market Committee worked together with the Board of Health (BOH) to ensure that all vendors selling processed foods had the appropriate permits and paperwork in place within the first few weeks of the market. The BOH graciously offered to have the permit fees set at \$35.00 per season or \$10.00/day, and stated that during the 2011 season this fee would cover vendors who

participated in the Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival.

Parking and Traffic Flow

No parking issues were noted for either the vendors or customers during the 2010 season. It was very beneficial to everyone to allow vendors to park on the Rt. 67 side of the Common behind their spaces. Allowing this opened up additional parking along the roadway that would have otherwise been taken up by the vendors. No damage to the grass or tree roots occurred.

Restroom Facilities and Hand Washing Station

The bathrooms in the bandstand were used by both the vendors and the customers. There was also a hand washing station set up at the information booth at the market with hot water, hand soap and paper towels, as requested by the BOH.

Electricity

Three vendors plugged into the electrical box during market hours to operate their chest freezers. Electricity was also used during the two musical events.

Events

The market hosted two musical events where the band, *Livestock*, performed. We also raffled off some beautiful market baskets and the proceeds paid for the band. Next year, we hope to host more events including, but not limited to, cooking demos, additional kids' events, and speaking programs.

Market Hours and Start Date

For the 2010 season, the market began on June 30th and ended on October 27th, opening every Wednesday, rain or shine, from 3 – 6 p.m.

Market News

Once the market began, the Committee felt that a weekly newsletter would really be beneficial to vendors and visitors alike. Our newsletter contained recipes, local and market event listings, vendor product updates, and any other agricultural item that came our way. The newsletter has continued into the off-season on a monthly basis. Over 50 people receive it via e-mail, and we have gotten great feedback.

Proposed Changes for the 2011 Season

Since the market ran so smoothly during our first season, the Market Committee would like to propose a few changes that we think would make the market more user friendly for visitors while increasing sales for the vendors.

Start Date

Last year, we started the market in late June so that there would be no conflict with school buses and students walking home from school, or traffic issues from parent pick-ups. When school resumed in the fall, we closely monitored the first few September markets to see if any safety or traffic issues arose. None were noted and we actually saw an increase in market visitors because they were coming directly from school. The market is a great

way to expose children to healthy food, educate them on where their food comes from, and allow them to develop relationships with farmers in their area. It also provides them an opportunity to run off some energy on the Common while their parents shop. The Committee would like to request that the market be allowed to start on May 18, 2011. Many of the vendors requested this start date because the week before Memorial Day can be a very busy time for Farmers Markets.

Vendors

The market will not increase in size during the 2011 season, but the Committee may allow a few vendors to sell fiber products made from materials they harvested on their farms. We will not, however, allow any vendors to sell crafts because we wish to maintain our focus on local agriculture.

Health Permits

For the 2011 season, the BOH proposed that the \$35.00 permit fee would also cover any vendor who wishes to participate in the Asparagus Festival. We are very happy about this and would like to see the town formally adopt this proposal and create a separate “Agricultural Retail Food Permit.” Many other New England towns have adopted this kind of reduced fee Retail Food Permit system to support and encourage local agricultural businesses and grow their regional economies.

Market Hours

The Committee is very happy with the start time. We found that many people came by the market on their way home from school, which was what we had hoped

when we proposed the market day and time. The Committee and many of the vendors, however, felt that a 6:00 p.m. stop time was too early for those folks who work out of town and don't leave their office until 5 p.m. Many commute from Worcester or Springfield and having the market close at 6 p.m. limits their ability to use it. The Committee would like to extend the market until 6:30 p.m. so that we could provide an opportunity for everyone to enjoy the market. When fall comes and daylight is an issue, we would resume a 6:00 p.m. closing time.

All in all, the market was a huge success. Many people commented that they were sad to see it end, and as we get closer to spring, many have approached me voicing their excitement about it starting again. People really got into a routine of going to the market every Wednesday to get their favorite bread, ice cream, goat cheese, or veggies. Folks were taking the time to talk and visit with each other and many developed friendships with the farmers they visit every week. It has been a wonderful addition to our community and the Committee looks forward to improving it with each coming year. We would like to thank you all for your support and we hope to keep working together to make it one of the best markets in the area.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Dugas, WBFM Manager
WBFM Committee
Suzanne LePage
Louise Garwood

FIRE DEPARTMENT

For the year 2010, the West Brookfield Fire Department responded to 127 emergency calls as follows:

1 Structure Fire	6 Smoke Investigation
3 Chimney Fires	21 Fire Alarms
9 Brush Fires	4 Carbon Monoxide
7 Appliance Fires	8 Electrical Fires
20 Motor Vehicle Accidents	3 Smell of Gas
6 Motor Vehicle Accidents (with Hazmat)	5 Hazmat (other than the cleanup from Motor Vehicle Accidents)
4 Vehicle Fires	2 ATV accidents
6 Illegal Burns	4 Assist a Citizen
1 Animal Rescue	

Mutual Aid was given seventeen (17) times to the following Towns:

3 Ware	1 New Braintree
6 Warren	3 Brookfield
2 North Brookfield	1 Hardwick
1 Bondsville	1 Oxford (Strike Team Activation)

We received Mutual Aid twice in 2010 from neighboring communities.

In addition to Fire Suppression duties, the Department conducts numerous Safety and Code Compliance Inspections. We also issue permits under various State required programs. These required inspections and

issuance of permits are performed primarily by Deputy Chief Benson, assisted by myself. The Department conducted ninety-four (94) Inspections consisting of the following:

Inspect the Installations of:

OIL AND GAS BURNERS
OIL TANKS AND PROPANE TANKS

Inspection of:

FUEL TANK SAFETY
SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS
COMMERCIAL SPRINKLER SYSTEMS
STATE MANDATED HEALTH CARE FACILITY
LIQUOR LICENSE BUILDING SAFETY
ELEVATOR SAFETY
TOWN OWNED SPRINKLER SYSTEM
UNDER GROUND TANK REMOVALS

Permits Issued for:

BLASTING PERMITS
BON-FIRE PERMITS

Thank you, Deputy Chief Benson, for your dedication and commitment to the Safety and Code Compliance Unit of our Department.

For more permit requirements and changes to the Smoke Detector and Carbon Monoxide laws and regulations please go to www.mass.gov/dfs and click on “Division of Fire Safety.” You will find the latest Fire Regulations and Code Requirements.

Our other permit process that most Firefighters take part in is the issuing of brush Burning Permits. In 2010, 225 Burning Permits were issued, down 24 permits. Our brush fire and out of control permits totaled 9 for the year. This low number was in part to a wet spring and,

we continue to hope, conscientious residents taking the necessary precautions when burning brush.

Starting in 2011, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) took over the control of outdoor burning activities and dictates when we can or cannot burn brush during the brush burning season. The ability to burn is governed by the daily air quality that disperses smoke to the atmosphere. The ability to dissipate smoke effects air quality for individuals with breathing difficulties. The DEP delegates the responsibility to the Fire Chief, and/or his designee, to monitor and issue orders for extinguishment of any fire that causes a compromise to air quality for another person, including a cooking fire. I would like to ask everyone to be considerate of your neighbor when lighting outdoor cooking or recreational camp fires and also have consideration for those who enjoy this controlled camp fire activity. Understand that if you are requested to extinguish your fire you are being requested to do so under these delegated orders from the DEP.

Another responsibility is Fire Prevention. The Fire Department again was fortunate to apply for and obtain, for the 14th year, the S.A.F.E. (Students Awareness of Fire Education) Grant. This program, coordinated within the school system, provides Fire and Life safety messages during the school year. Fire personnel visit the school starting in or around January and ending at the conclusion of the school year. We provide Fire Safety tips that we hope are brought home and shared with the entire family. We talk about fire safety, home electrical safety, home escape plans, and more. Our fire statistics each year prove this program works.

In addition to Fire Safety messages, this program teaches CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) to the

entire 5th Grade. CPR Instructors from the Fire Department, and supplies given free for the entire class from the West Brookfield Rescue Squad, provides this instruction. This is a great addition to the safety of our community. Over fifty children have been trained and are able to perform CPR when a Cardiac Arrest emergency arises. Our hats are off to the 5th grade, Great Job! We would like to *thank* Principal Colleen Mucha for her cooperation and support to our Fire Prevention efforts; and to the 5th Grade Teachers, Mr. Ryan Hibbard and Mrs. Michele Salem, for allowing us time in their classrooms and for the support they give in assisting with the teaching of our important safety messages. We would also like to *congratulate* Mrs. Salem, who retired from the school system in 2010, and *thank* her for her unwavering support of the S.A.F.E. program. She has supported the program for more than 10 of our 14 years. We will miss her deeply and wish her the best!

Training continues to become more demanding, with the introduction of new technologies, additional fire codes, and regulations, and training new recruits. It becomes a never-ending upgrade. Our Training Officer, Scott Anderson, heads up this task and does a great job and I again thank him for his diligent efforts in organizing monthly trainings and helping the Operational Officers keep all Firefighters abreast of the latest techniques and hazards we will face.

The Department also had two firefighters attend and graduate from the District 7 Firefighter I/II training. With 300 hours of classroom and hands on fire training. Both graduated honorably and I would like to recognize Firefighter Nicholas Frank and Firefighter Patricia Lupacchino. *Congratulations* to you both and *thank you*

for the commitment you make to the Department and the service you provide to our community.

In 2010, the Department has seen many joys and renewals, but we also experienced a deep loss and sadness once again. On November 9, 2010, we lost one of our past



Fire Chiefs and honorary member, Chief Warren E. Gresty. Chief Gresty served our community for 43 years. His selfless dedication and leadership style continues to be an example that many Firefighters follow today. We cherished his friendship, for he was the Chief that gave of himself and always saw the good in everyone. Always with a smile and a willingness to give anyone a chance, he gave me mine and we

chuckled each time we visited saying, “Look at the trouble you (Warren) started.”

Also this year, we had a retirement: Captain Wes Cassavant stepped down after 30 years of service to the Department. With great new responsibilities for the safety of the town’s drinking water as the new Water Superintendent, Wes felt he couldn’t put his *all* into the Department, as he would like, and that’s understandable. Although the Department saw this news as premature, for he is young in years, we all believe he certainly earned the rest. We celebrated a review of 3 decades of service and still hold hope that he will return in the future. We thank Wes for his years of service and continue to enjoy his visits and appearances at Emergency scenes in his

new capacity. Your dedication and knowledge will be deeply missed and we *thank you*, Captain Cassavant! Your devotion and service to your community is a bench mark for many to follow, just remember, your gear awaits your return.



*A reminder to our community
that the Fire Department is a
Call Volunteer Department
all duties are performed on this basis.*

The Fire Department is a department many times not thought about until needed. The men and women of the Department are the true reason everyone can rest at night knowing that, if the call arises and an emergency strikes, these individuals are on call and ready to respond. I take much pride in saying I lead one of the most dedicated groups of Firemen in the Fire Service. I *thank* the officers for their assistance in leading the Department, and thank each Firefighter for their service. I thank them for their dedication, commitment to serve, and willingness to risk the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of their neighbor, family, or friend!

Your 2010 Fire Department members are as follows:

Chief Paul Lupacchino
Deputy Chief Robert Benson
Assistant Chief Daniel Santos
Captain Wes Cassavant
Lieutenant Joe Landry
Training Lieutenant Scott Anderson
Firefighter Brian Charron
Firefighter Nicholas Frank
Firefighter Brandon Fullum
Firefighter Jason McNeany
Firefighter Jessie Merriam
Firefighter Patricia Lupacchino
Firefighter Jacob Pensinger
Firefighter John Pensinger
Firefighter Dana Searah
Firefighter David Tebo
Recruit Firefighter Brian Dustin
Recruit Firefighter Aston Jansen
Firefighter William Gray (leave of absence)
Firefighter Nick Minor (leave of absence for the Navy)
Firefighter Larry Pease (indefinite leave)
Firefighter Marty Nagle (resigned)

I would also like to say, if there are any men and women from our community who feel they possess the desire, dedication, commitment to serve, and are physically fit to perform Firefighting duties and are interested in joining our dedicated department – please contact us at (508) 867-1408. Leave a message and we will get back to you. You can also come to the station on any Monday night, we are there, and one of the Fire Officers or Firefighters would gladly talk over this opportunity with you. We need you! We need your help!

I would like to say *thank you* to all the Departments that supply direct assistance when called upon, especially the Rescue Squad, Police Department, also the Highway and Water Departments, the Central Dispatch Center, and all other departments who assist us in getting our job done daily and during emergencies.

We would like to *congratulate* Ron Marchessault on his retirement as Water Superintendent, and *thank* him for over three decades of service to our community and the support given to the Fire Department whenever called upon during emergencies. We thank him for his services within this Department as a Firefighter during those years he was with us as well!

We thank our families, who put up with us bolting out the door and their willingness to be there upon our return, sharing us with the community, and supporting us in our calling.

In closing, I would like to *thank* the Selectmen, Finance Committee, and all the Town Departments for the support they have extended to the Fire Department. I would like to *thank* the community for their support, but most of all I would like to thank the Firefighters of the West Brookfield Fire Department who stand behind me with unwavering support, dedication, and confidence in this most honorable position in the Fire Service as Chief. I will represent you, protect you, and lead you with honor. I *thank you* for the opportunity to serve you as your Chief. The Town of West Brookfield remains safe because of you!

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Lupacchino, Fire Chief

GAS & PLUMBING INSPECTOR

The following is a compilation of Gas & Plumbing Inspections performed during the year 2010.

Gas

Ranges	10	Roof Top Units	2
Grilles	2	Vent. Room Heaters	3
Heating Boilers	7	Direct Vent Heaters	2
Furnaces	4	Tests	1
Water Heaters	10	Gas Lines	4
Dryers	2	Fireplaces	1
Gas Generators	2		

Plumbing

Water Closets	20	Hot Water Tanks	15
Kitchen Sinks	11	Tankless	4
Lavatories	24	Slop Sinks	1
Bathtub	10	Water Piping	9
Shower Stalls	10	Backflow Prev.	3
Dishwashers	13	UEG Sink	1
Laundry Trays	2	Bar Sink	1
Wash. Machine Conn.	10	Waste Pipe	1

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Ciejka, Gas and Plumbing Inspector
Carl Marco, Assistant Inspector

HAZARDOUS WASTE

The first order for the New Year was to ensure the department was operating with all the necessary permits, proper containment facilities, and following all rules and regulations set forth by the DEP. A new containment system was purchased and installed. This department was listed as a Small Quantity Generator of Hazardous Waste with the state since 2002. One must have this permit in order to pick up and transport waste from the scene of a call to containment for storage and ultimately disposal. The department has been receiving updates, from DEP, of any rule or regulation changes since January 2010.

During 2010, the Hazardous Waste Department responded to a total of eleven calls for Hazmat cleanup:

- 2 Mutual Aid with Hazmat trailer
- 7 Motor Vehicle Accidents
- 1 Investigation of fluid spilled on roadway
- 1 Report of oil spilled on ice

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Charron, Hazardous Waste Coordinator

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

July and August were mainly spent on town road maintenance, cutting brush on roadsides, cleaning culverts and swales, tree removal, tree trimming and stump removal. We also had all the catch basins and drop inlets cleaned. This will be done on a yearly basis.

Towards the end of August, we started our first Chapter 90 Road Project on Wigwam Road, which is a 3-mile scenic road. We focused on the first 1.6 miles of the road starting from the North Brookfield end, which was in a bad state of repair with many narrow areas, bad drainage areas, and several dangerous corners.

The following work was completed on the first 1.6 miles of Wigwam Road:

- 138 trees and stumps removed
- Road shoulders and drainage swales cut on both sides of the road
- 25 hours of rock and ledge removal with a hydraulic rock hammer
- 70 hours of heavy excavation of large stumps and boulders
- Road was widened with full depth reclamation in many areas (1,900 yards of gravel compacted in place)
- 6 old culverts repaired and rusted metal pipe replaced with double wall plastic pipe (240 ft.)
- 3 new drop inlets installed with an additional 140 ft. of pipe
- 15 new head walls were built
- 14 telephone poles were moved in conjunction with the road widening

- 18,056 square yards of road were reclaimed to a depth of 10 to 12 inches
- 1.6 miles of road re-graded and compacted with calcium
- 2-1/2 inches of dense binder (2,530 ton) put in place

The majority of this work was done with town equipment and manpower and the work was complete on November 9, 2010.

Other projects completed were as follows:

- Wheeler Road – 1,500 ft. reclaimed and paved (2-1/2 inches of dense binder used)
- Shoreline Drive – gravel and graded per private road policy

Next year we plan to finish the second half of Wigwam Road with dense binder. The scope of work will be similar to what we did this year.

With the help of the Board of Selectmen, a Road Project Committee was established. The main goal of this committee is to develop a 10-year Project Plan to improve the road quality in West Brookfield. I am looking forward to working with this committee and the residents of West Brookfield, as well as the Board of Selectmen to get these road projects on the go.

We have also continued the contract with the United States Department of Agriculture to minimize the beaver problems in town. We have identified many problem sites and so far 25 beavers have been removed. We have also repaired existing flow control devices and are evaluating other locations that flow control devices may be utilized.

The past few weeks we have been focusing on equipment repair and getting ready for the winter season.

I am confident we will be ready for whatever Mother Nature brings us.

I would like to thank the residents of West Brookfield, the Board of Selectmen, both the full time and part time employees of the Highway Department, and the various town departments for their continued support and assistance throughout the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
James Daley, Highway Superintendent



Wigwam Road

THE DROP-OFF CENTER IS FOR RESIDENTIAL USE ONLY. RULES AND REGULATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS MARKET FLUCTUATES

***Batteries must have caps attached.
Any motor must have fluids drained.***

Large Console TVs * Large Propane Tanks *
Commercial or Truck Tires.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Historical Commission met monthly, January to June and September to December, in the Commission Office – Room 201 in the Town Hall.

Since publication of *A History of West Brookfield 1675 – 1990* in November 2009, almost three-quarters of the books have been sold. On June 30, all income from book sales was returned to the town.

In April, the Commission funded the “Old Sturbridge Village – History on the Road” program for 5th grade students at the West Brookfield Elementary School. In June, a field trip to Old Sturbridge Village was also funded for all 3rd grade students.

In May, after several years of research by Commission member Amy Dugas, the National Historic Register nomination for the Jedediah Foster Home site was submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

During the year, the Commission co-sponsored several events. In January, a program, *The Titanic*, was co-sponsored with Friends of the Library. In May, the *Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival* was co-sponsored with the Quaboag Historical Society. In July, a program, *New England Barns* was co-sponsored with the East Quabbin Land Trust.

The Commission website, www.westbrookfield.org continued to be updated by member Nancy Parker. Updates included information on the 1660 “Planters” (original settlers), John Pynchon, Lucy Stone, and numerous others.

Other activities during the year included:

- ⌘ Partnered once again with the Friends of the Library to purchase 50 reduced admission tickets to Old Sturbridge Village for residents.
- ⌘ Funded printing of new or revised informational brochures for “The Old Indian Cemetery,” “Historic Foster Hill,” “Lucy Stone,” “The Legend of Asparagus,” and “The West Brookfield Historical Commission.”
- ⌘ Participated in the planning and organization of the “Meeting in the Middle of the Road” with settler and Native American descendants on Foster Hill. Hundreds of people attended this event.
- ⌘ Awarded a symbolic *Boston Post Cane* to John Murphy at a reception held at the Senior Center in May.
- ⌘ Welcomed new Commission member Anne-Marie Nolan, who volunteered as Commission member on the Open Space Committee.
- ⌘ Met with descendants of Augustus Potter to plan a *Civil War Encampment* on the common in June. 2011 will be the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. An elementary school program is also being planned.
- ⌘ Supported the Farmers’ Market on the common, which was a great success.
- ⌘ Continued research to determine Historic Register eligibility for the Lucy Stone Home site.

- ⌘ Requested participation in discussions regarding work and signage for Scenic Roads.
- ⌘ Continued work with the Brookfield Historical Commission to establish the “Devil’s Elbow Trail.”
- ⌘ Continued work with the East Quabbin Land Trust to preserve the 1665 John Pynchon Mill site on Sucker Brook.
- ⌘ Participated in the *Asparagus & Flower Heritage Festival* in May and distributed numerous historical brochures.
- ⌘ Provided information on Historic Districts and sites to the Mass Technical Collaborative regarding broadband installation in town.

2010 marked the 350th Anniversary of the Quaboag Plantation. The Commission is pleased to have been part of this yearlong celebration.

Once again, a generous gift was received from the J. Irving and Jane L. England Charitable Trust. This gift, along with the support of the Town, enabled us to undertake the projects outlined. We truly express our gratitude for this support.

The 2010 members and Associate Members are:

Ed Dow	Anne-Marie Nolan
Amy Dugas	Nancy Parker
Dave Fitzgerald	Barbara Rossman
Joan Fitzgerald	Richard Rossman
Bill Leslie	

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Rossman, Chairman

HOUSING AUTHORITY

We hereby submit our annual report to you, the Honorable Board of Selectmen, and the people of the Town of West Brookfield.

The West Brookfield Housing authority held twelve regular meetings and one special meeting during 2010. The West Brookfield Housing authority meets on the third Monday of each month at the Community Building at Olde Village Place, 29 East Main Street. The meetings are held at 2:30pm and are open to the public. All meetings are posted with the Town Clerk. Our annual meeting is held in May.

All housing authorities have four members elected by the voters of the town and one member appointed by the Governor of Massachusetts. Our elected members are John Murphy, Beverly Anderson, Peggy Walker, and James Pierce. Our appointed member is Michael Frew.

The West Brookfield Housing Authority has three employees: Maintenance Manager, Keith Bordeau; Office Assistant, Fiona Andrewes; and Executive Director, Jean Vincent.

The Authority currently administers 36 one-bedroom units under the State's Chapter 667 program, 6 three-bedroom units and 4 two-bedroom units under the State's Chapter 705 program. Also located on our site is a Chapter 689 program that is administered by the Bridge of Central Massachusetts. All of these programs were funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development and are operated under state guidelines. The West Brookfield Housing Authority processes applications for state-aided elderly housing from persons who are

sixty years of age or older. As in the past, handicapped persons continue to be eligible for state-aided housing for the elderly regardless of age. The Authority also processes applications for state-aided family housing from persons who qualify. Anyone who wishes to live at Olde Village Place should fill out an application, which can be obtained from the office. Tenant selection is made from our waiting list and all state guidelines are adhered to in the tenant selection process.

In 2010 and prior, much time was spent with engineers to design a septic system that would solve problems incurred by the present system, which is in failure. Finally, a system was designed that is expected to solve our problems. Drawings were approved and the project went out to bid. A contractor was hired, but unfortunately got a late start and could only replace two fields before winter set in. As soon as the weather breaks in the spring, the other systems will be replaced with a drip system.

We wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to the West Brookfield Police, Fire, and Rescue Departments for their caring dedication to the safety and security of our residents.

Respectfully submitted,
The West Brookfield Housing Authority
John Murphy
Peggy Walker
Beverly Anderson
Michael Frew
James Pierce

LAKE WICKABOAG PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION (LWPA)

We started the 2010 season with the ability to see almost seven feet down into the lake using our Sechi Disk. However, by mid June, we began to observe deterioration in clarity and we scheduled our first algae treatment for the 21st of July. Due to the warm weather and anticipating an algae bloom in August, we scheduled a second copper sulfate treatment on August 11th. During August, we again encountered excessive amounts of Chara, an alga that appears string like and can be mistaken for a weed form. The contractors we have spoken with have suggested that this is actually a beneficial alga, as it grows low to the bottom and can limit weed growth. However, the amount we experienced was significant enough to warrant several treatments. As a result, the Chara was eliminated at the end of Rodman Road and an area near the Boat Club. We are not alone with algae management problems. There are few local, reliable, and accurate algae analysts and not enough research has been done to compare our results to scientific data sources. We may struggle with this lake management issue for several more years.

Each year working with Lycott Environmental, we conduct several weed surveys of the lake. Our initial analysis this year identified a larger portion of variable milfoil in the north end of the lake than we had observed in other years. After two treatments, most of the milfoil disappeared. However, since the weed grows in very shallow water, in the area that cannot be treated effectively, we will continue to see it reappear in the future.

In addition to the lake monitoring, we hosted another successful lake clean up, convened an educational annual meeting, published spring and fall newsletters, and supported dam maintenance activities. The fifth decorated waterfront contest was held on July 4th. Working with the Stormwater Authority and consultants from ESS, we were very pleased that West Brookfield was awarded a \$350,000.00 *319 Grant* for a project dredging the two retention ponds next to the town beach to limit the amount of run-off of contaminants flowing into the lake.

Representatives of the LWPA have been actively participating with the West Brookfield Board of Health and other interested town residents in a project to dredge part of the north end of the lake. Initial analyses indicate there are no serious contaminants in the sediments. Apex Companies LLC have been hired as the project consultants. Funding of the initial \$100,000 segment of the total \$4 - \$5 million project is occurring with private donations. \$28,000 has been raised, and an equal \$28,000 amount will be matched by a lake front family. Watch the LWPA newsletter for additional status reports.

As part of the 350th Quaboag Plantation celebration working with the Lake Wickaboag Boat Club and the Lashaway Y-FLYERS Sailing Club, a Regatta, reminiscent of the events held in August during the 1940's to the 1970's, was held on Saturday, August 14, 2010 at the beach and Boat Club facilities. Canoe, kayak, and novice sunfish sailing races were followed by the Y-Flyers races and a water ski show performed by the Eastern region Championship Oxbow Water Ski Show Team.

During 2011, we will expand our lake monitoring program and continue publication of our newsletters and will conduct another lake clean-up. In the future, we would like to extend the clean-up program to include the entire town and will be looking for volunteers for that effort. The sixth July 4th decorated waterfront contest will be held only if a new volunteer committee can be found.

Annual Budget from West Brookfield
Fiscal Year July 1 to June 30

	'08 - '09	'09 - '10	'10 - '11	'11 - '12
	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Weed Management	\$4,800	\$8,900	\$8,900	\$10,000
Algae Management	5,500	3,700	5,590	6,910
Water Testing/Projects	692	4,310	2,420	0
Total	\$10,992	\$16,910	\$16,910	\$16,910
Budget	17,800	16,910	16,910	16,910
Under/(Over) budget	\$5,808	\$0	\$0	\$0

While there has been an overall decline in the weed population, new species arrive and old ones return, so there will be a need to continue the surveys and some weed treatments. With the cost of copper used in copper sulfate for algae treatments continuing to rise, we may have enough funds for only one treatment during the summer of 2011.

LWPA remains committed to achieving the best water quality for our lake. We thank all town officials and the town residents for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Albert Collings, President
Mary Beth Czaja, Vice-President

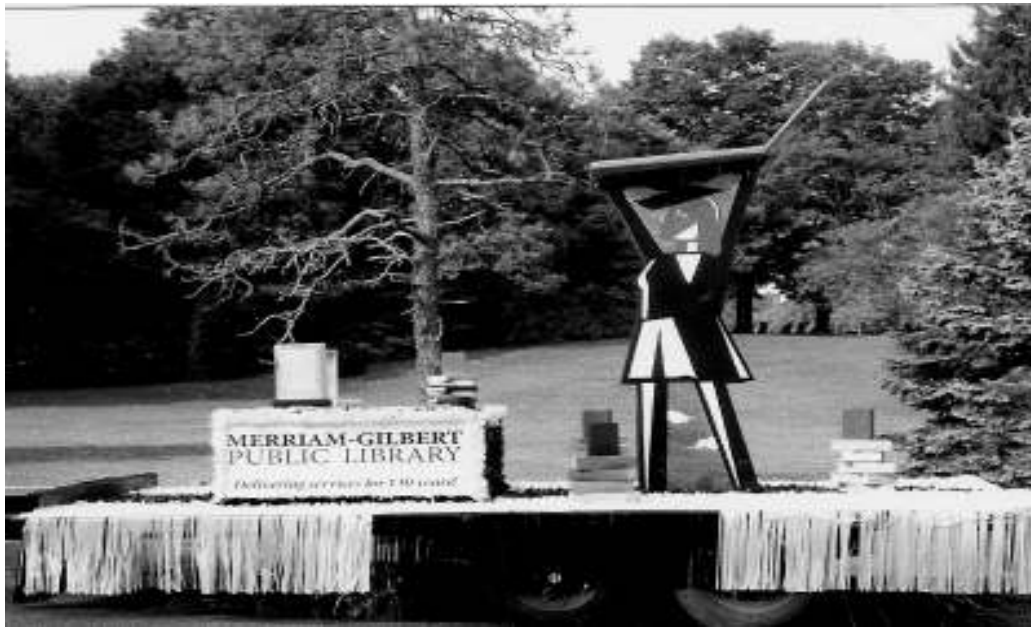
LIBRARY

“The Future of reading is bright and backlit.”

~ Anna Quindlen, Author

The past year presented a mixture of both positive and challenging prospects with the Quaboag Plantation’s 350th Anniversary lending an air of celebration throughout. The Library’s multifarious involvement provided, in part, a venue that kept the Celebration a constant presence as 4 back-to-back exhibits from the Quaboag Historical Museum’s (QHM) collection were showcased concurrently with the yearlong event. Curated by Museum Co-President, Amy Dugas, the retrospectives featured historic pictures and relics relative to the 6 Plantation towns.

The Library also participated in the Celebration’s “March of History Parade”, submitting a float that featured a 9-foot Librarian with arms raised overhead, displaying a laptop computer while surrounded by stacks of print and digital books at its base. Acknowledging the pivotal influence of technology on our library and our times, the Library utilized this opportunity to also recognize its own 130th anniversary milestone. (The Library extends its deep appreciation to Barry and Sue Nadon, Jr., for providing their home to assemble the float, and the use of their vehicle and trailer for the procession).



“Year of the Librarian” float

During the White Christmas event, on the final day of the 350th Anniversary celebration, the Bicentennial Quilt was displayed in the fiction room. With 1,000 people passing through that day, the quilt captured a large audience of admirers before it was returned to the Quaboag Historical Museum after the New Year, and placed back into storage.

It was our good fortune to receive 2 of the 350th Anniversary tables created especially for the Grand Ball by local artists and craftsmen. “The Vase of History”, by artist Dick Chase, was obtained at the May auction through the magnanimous contributions of several kind donors, who included: Barbara & Ken Blake, Harold Chesson, Friends of the MGPL, Rodney & Gloria Hanks, Barry & Shirley Nadon, Sr., Florence Ritzer, and Dick & Barbara Rossman. In July, a 2nd table, “Quaboag Colors”, by artist, Kay Ebersold, was presented to the Library by Barry and Shirley Nadon, Sr. Both tables are on display for all to enjoy and appreciate. We envision these tables

being displayed again at the 400th Anniversary Grand Ball in 2060!

The Library also acquired one of the winning entries from the 350th Anniversary postcard contest. Created by West Brookfield Elementary School 6th grader, Joe Smichinski, this unique drawing captures the essence of our beloved building through the eyes of a child, with its bright colors and 3-D perspective. Joe didn't hesitate to donate his picture to the Library, and we commend him for his thoughtfulness. With the addition of these 350th Anniversary keepsakes to the Library's original art collection, we are sure to be a destination for marveling at the past and reflecting upon the community's historic character.

A large oil portrait of Herman Patt was placed on permanent loan by his family, and currently hangs at the top of the main staircase. Mr. Patt was a long-time resident who often devoted his time and talents to our town, overseeing numerous 4-H gardening clubs among many other contributions. Placing his property into a land trust when he retired from farming in 1984, Mr. Patt donated a large portion of acreage to the Elementary School. He also served as a Library Trustee several times throughout the years.

The Friends of the Library purchased 4 paintings from children's book illustrator, Ralph Masiello. These works on paper are the original illustrations from several published titles, including "Icky Bug Counting Book" and "Dinosaur Alphabet Book", and are on permanent display in the Children's area.

Boy Scout Jacob Gorham (who is both the Library's web master and owner of Anevry Inc., a technology services company) selected the Library as the recipient of

his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. In March, Jacob and his troop transformed an unfinished basement storage room into an efficient program/project prep room. The walls, ceiling, and floor were washed, sealed, and painted. Custom-built wooden shelving units were installed along with a center island. Lastly, a dehumidifier was set up to manage the damp environment, preserving the upgrades. With this increased usable space, the Librarians (especially the Children's) now have a dedicated space from which to facilitate the production side of the numerous projects and programs conducted throughout the year, as well as a clean dry environment to organize and store both supplies and smaller equipment. We are deeply grateful to Jacob for taking a long-imagined idea and making it a reality, and congratulate him on successfully attaining Eagle Scout rank (and at such a young age – 15!).

Additionally, a newly designed web site launched this summer after Jacob suggested migrating from raw HTML code to a simpler interface, which ultimately translated into significant savings for the Library. The newly designed web site was launched in July and reflects a sleeker, more modern appearance while preserving all the functionality people depend on. With thousands of visits logged per month, the web site has become an online destination that provides the latest information about the Library along with the features and benefits therein and thereof (*it should be duly noted that Jacob generously donated his skill and time to this project*). Likewise, our Facebook® Fan Page grew both in visits and membership, indicating that social networking platforms are a type of outreach patrons find beneficial.

CWMARS significantly increased our network bandwidth, resulting in faster uploading/ downloading speeds on both patron and staff computers. A pending MassBroadband fiber optic network grant, when finally funded, will greatly expand the capacity of our Internet connectivity and improve the quality of services, allowing new opportunities to flourish.

Providing a powerful information infrastructure necessitates equipment with comparable capability. The Library, therefore, obtained full funding, through the Technology Committee, for the purchase of 2 new Staff computers, thus enabling Staff to perform their jobs with greater stability and speed. The abovementioned are some examples by which the Library maintains its commitment to keeping pace with the current technological trends, and delivering them efficiently and effectively to our patrons.

As a result of the dire economy, we said goodbye to the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System (CMRLS), along with 4 other regional agencies that delivered dynamic services to libraries, enriching the patrons we serve. With the elimination of their operating budgets from the Governor's FY11 budget, a new single agency was established on July 1st. The Massachusetts Library System (MLS) launched with a goal to maintain the same high standards of service as the multi-regional system. Although some of the services have been discontinued, such as the statewide Summer Reading Program (SRP) – we will be utilizing the national SRP model in 2011, other services have been preserved including ILL delivery, and professional development for Librarians. It is important to note that the closure of the multi-regional system occurred at a time when all the

agencies were at the height of their productivity, effectiveness, and vivacity. Their contributions to the effectiveness of the public library system cannot be overstated, and our Library staff profoundly feels the absence, particularly of CMRLS. We want to take this opportunity to thank them for their years of professional and caring contributions toward our success. CMRLS will be tremendously missed.

Due to the location closure of CMRLS, the Library obtained several valuable items through participating in liquidation raffles, including:

- ❑ All-In-One computer
- ❑ Fax machine
- ❑ MP3 player
- ❑ 2 metal storage cabinets
- ❑ Folding conference table
- ❑ Slide carousel
- ❑ Several reams of copier and colored paper
- ❑ Various library & office supplies

The final *statewide* SRP presented 13 programs that 470 people enjoyed attending, and hosted 74 registrants who read hundreds of books. The following gracious sponsors provided the financial support that makes this annual summer pastime a tradition that keeps children reading:

Big Y	\$ 20.00	(gift card)
Country Bank for Savings	350.00	
Dean's Automotive	25.00	
	50.00	

Dunkin' Donuts	
Dr. Thomas Cahill	50.00
Family First Bank	110.00
Gremarco Industries	100.00
Hannaford	110.00
Lamoureux Ford	50.00
North Brookfield Savings Bank	75.00
Shaw's	20.00 (gift card)
Spencer Savings Bank	100.00
Southbridge Savings Bank	200.00
VCA Wickaboag Animal Hospital	100.00
Webster First Federal Credit Union	75.00
Local Cultural Council (LCC)	1,300

In addition to providing the central funding for the SRP, the LCC presented the Library with the means to purchase 4 electronic readers – 2 Barnes & Noble Nook, 1 Amazon Kindle, and a Sony Reader. Providing our readership with emergent technologies is a critical function of the Library, not only from a circulation perspective but also in terms of experiential means. The implications of eBook technology is nothing short of revolutionary, rendering these devices extremely valuable for the community.

All indicators point to a dramatic shift in how patrons consume materials (i.e.: 118% increase in circulation of downloadable audio, eBook, and movie collections last year alone at our Library), and we recognize that Libraries are uniquely positioned to offer even more vital resources and opportunities within our communities,

making the role of the Librarian indispensable as the spotters and conduits of these trending technologies.

A We the People Bookshelf Grant award furnished 22 books themed “A More Perfect Union” from the National Endowment for Humanities and the American Library Association. This is a renewable grant that the Library applies for annually.

The England Trust gifted the Library \$7,500, with a significant portion of that money earmarked for a pending interior upgrade project in the coming months.

The Lions Club donated \$500 with the stipulation that the money be spent on audiovisual materials. Large type print and Playaway audiobooks were purchased, expanding both collections, which are popular with our readership.

The West Brookfield Historical Commission generously funded the cost of Old Sturbridge Village discount admission coupons, which were made available to the community throughout the year. The Commission also donated both the Town Hall and Library commemorative ornaments, and their recently published History of West Brookfield to the Friends of the MGPL White Christmas Raffle Table (along with an additional copy donated for the Library’s collection).

Each year, when the Library receives its municipal budget, it is, in part, transformed into goods and services that far exceed the budget’s actual dollar amount (the Library’s appropriated budget for the year was \$172,327). Below please find totals derived from the Annual Report Information Survey (ARIS). Utilizing the Massachusetts Library Association’s Value of Library Service Calculator, the figures below illustrate the tremendous return the Town receives for its tax dollars invested in the Library.

Use	Services	Value
8445	Adult Books Borrowed	\$143,565.00
7019	Children's/Young Adult Books Borrowed	\$84,228.00
903	Magazines Borrowed	\$4,515.00
1040	Newspapers Browsed	\$9,880.00
8458	Videos Borrowed	\$33,832.00
2555	Audio Books & CDs Borrowed	\$25,422.25
43	Museum Passes Borrowed	\$1,290.00
1040	Magazine Use in Library	\$2,080.00
4796	Interlibrary Loan	\$119,900.00
75	Meeting Room Use per Hour	\$3,750.00
165	Adult Programs Attended	\$2,475.00
76	Children's Programs Attended	\$532.00
3224	Hours of Computer Use	\$38,688.00
142	Online Magazine or Newspaper Article	\$284.00
7800	Information Research Requests Answered	\$54,600.00
	Value of our Library	\$525,041.25

The ARIS presents a statistical *portrait* that helps evaluate services within our Library, and provides comparative data between participating public libraries in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners awarded the Library several grants totaling \$4,213 for participating in the survey and meeting/exceeding 10 certification requirements.

As you can see, quite a lot happens at the Library over the course of a year, and it is not without the hard work and dedication of many people. There are those who quietly toil on behalf of the Library, behind the scenes, and whose efforts enhance the services our patrons enjoy

and rely upon. These unsung heroes, who largely go unnoticed for one reason or another, deserve to have their names and contributions gratefully acknowledged.

The Board of Library Trustees is composed of individuals, whose sound and thoughtful consideration produce tremendous results, increasing the Library's efficiency and effectiveness. As elected officials, they creatively address ways and means through which to define, expand, and improve our Library's role within the community. The Board's influence is seen and felt with every service rendered and every benefit derived. They attend monthly meetings, Town Meeting, and special events, such as the Library's participation in White Christmas. They are the supreme advocates of the Library and include the following individuals: Linda Carpenter, Mark Jordan (Sec.), Evelyn Kwasniewski, Alexandra McNitt, Michael Ozbayrak, Jeff Robbins, and Paul Spencer (Chair).



The Board of Library Trustees (clockwise from left: Mark Jordan, Secretary; Michael Ozbayrak, Paul Spencer, Chairman; Linda Carpenter, Jeff Robbins, Alexandra McNitt (Evelyn Kwasniewski not in picture).

Library volunteers include those who devote themselves to a specific area or function. Both Doris Carlson and Joanna Christakis dedicated their time and talents throughout the year, assisting with preparation and presentation of the weekly Story Hour program. New adult services volunteers include young adults, Ashley Lane and Ashley Leger who augmented the efforts of seasoned volunteer Judy Kelley-Rzeznikiewicz. Judy, who continued engaging her skill and time by helping to maintain the adult print collection (preparing new books for circulation, moving collections, spatial and alpha/numeric organization of bookshelves, etc.), does double duty for the Library by serving also as its Friends President, where she oversees the annual “Buy the Book & Bake Sale” every June, and the White Christmas Raffle Table. These events raised enough money to maintain the ever-popular Pass Program, which includes free or reduced admissions to several cultural venues throughout New England. The Friends of the Library also bears the expense of the American Red Cross Babysitting Training program offered to young adults free of charge (including lunch) every February. Further contributions include funding the Young Adult magazine, *Marble Collection*, a high school publication dedicated to the arts, which is delivered in both print and digital formats. Judy personifies the spirit of volunteerism, and it is our great honor to recognize her big-hearted, significant contributions.

The SRP is an enormous program that stretches the resources of the Library and its staff, necessitating the assistance of several generous volunteers to augment our efforts. If not for these kind individuals, the program couldn’t achieve the level of success it has always

attained. Appreciation and recognition, therefore, are extended to the following young adults:

*Staci Allen, Nathan Latter
Rachael Mott, Jessica Peltz
Anna, Julia, and Sarah Stefano.*

As the 350th Anniversary year came to a close in December, the Library was just beginning its own celebration: 130 years ago, in November of 1880, the Library opened its doors dedicated to the people it would come to serve.

While standing on the 2nd floor of the Library watching the parade pass by last September, it occurred to me that a string of ordinary days spanning from the Library's beginnings had brought us to the extraordinary moment of our 130th anniversary.



The newly erected Library, November 1880 (image courtesy of the QHM)

For more than 6 generations, the Librarians have guaranteed the community access to the essential information technologies available. As the great equalizer, the Library has provided these technologies to all, regardless of socioeconomic status, age, physical, or intellectual ability or cultural background. Although technologies may change, along with the way in which information is consumed, this mission remains the same.



Library Staff (back L-R): Rachael Bassett, Page; Maggie Christakis, Page; Elaine Courtemanche, Page; Mary Beth Jackson, Children Services; (front L-R): Holly Takorian, Adult Services; Lisa Careau, Director

In honoring that tradition, a complete list of Head Librarians who have “passed the torch” throughout the 130-year history at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library is presented below:



First Librarian of the MGPL, Thomas S. Knowlton (image courtesy of the QHM)

Thomas S. Knowlton, 1880-94
Charlotte E. Wilbur, 1895-99
Florence A. Johnson, 1900-06
Mary P. Foster, 1907-1916
Helen P. Shackley, 1916-48
Evelyn Hazen, 1948-51
Freeda E. Huyck, 1951-53
Doris Jones, 1954-55
Mildred B. Grazier, 1956-60
Isabel Smith, 1960-65
Joanne Scobie, 1965-67
Roberta M. Rhodes, 1967-87
Mary Hulser, 1987-1997
Michael J. Bennett, 1997-99
Louise Garwood (Interim), 1999-2000
Elizabeth Zemelka, 2000-2001
Lisa Careau, 2001-present

To further underscore this “Year of the Librarian”, special recognition is given to Roberta Rhodes, who served as Library Director for twenty years, spearheading relevant change during her tenure. She ushered in progress with pride and commitment knowing that it would improve the Library, and, in turn, benefit its patrons. Exemplifying the essence of Head Librarian, we acknowledge Mrs. Rhodes’ contributions to that end, and convey our heartfelt gratitude for her job well done.



*Jacob Knight signing his “Best of America” print before presenting it to the Library in honor of its Centennial (1980), during Roberta Rhodes’ tenure as Library Director.
(image courtesy of the Telegram & Gazette)*

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Careau, Library Director

LIST OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS

* Indicates Chairperson. () Indicates Term of Office

ADVISORY BOARD (7 MEMBERS – 3 YEAR TERMS)

Phil Landine	(2011)
John Tivnan	(2011)
Nicole Allen	(2012)
Al Collings	(2012)
G. Thomas Schnare	(2013)
Diane Vayda	(2013)
Roy Roberts	(2013)

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Brad Quigley *	(2011)	
Roger Slobody	(2011)	
Arthur Maskell	(2011)	
Gordon DeWolf	(2011)	
Vacant	(2011)	
Barry Nadon, Sr.	(2011)	Alternate
Vacant	(2011)	Alternate
Vacant	(2011)	Alternate
Lisa Long	(2011)	Alternate

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COORDINATOR

Johanna Barry	(2011)
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ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER/DOG OFFICER

Leah Shattuck	(2011)
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ANIMAL INSPECTOR

Barry J. Nadon, Sr.	(04/30/11)
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ASPARAGUS & FLOWER HERITAGE FESTIVAL

George Hibbard	(2011)	
Richard Rossman	(2011)	
Amy Dugas	(2011)	
Elaine Hibbard	(2011)	
Jennifer Sablack	(2011)	Resigned 2/08/11
Claudia Tourigny	(2011)	

ASSISTANT TOWN CLERKS

Tammi Kemp	(2011)
Geraldine Sauve	(2011)
Teresa Barrett	(2011)
Christine Long	(2011)
Robert Spera	(2011)

ASSISTANT TOWN TREASURER

Teri Ann Roberts	(2011)
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AUCTIONEER (PROPERTY)

Johanna Barry	(2011)
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BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Jane R. Dolan	(2011)	
Anna May Zabek	(2012)	
Robert Spera	(2013)	Resigned 12/28/10
Madelyn Tivnan	(2013)	

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Jeff Taylor	(2011)	
John Couture	(2011)	Alternate

BURIAL GROUND COMMISSIONERS

John Bartlett (2011)

Kevin Roberts (2012)

Marjorie Reim (2013)

CABLE TELEVISION COMMITTEE, LOCAL ACCESS

Barry Gillogly, Director (2011)

CENTRAL MASS. REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Tim Morrell (2011)

Diane Oliver-Jensen (2011) Alternate

CMRPC REGIONAL PLANNING TASK FORCE

C. Thomas O'Donnell (2011)

CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Johanna Barry (2011)

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR

Paul Lupacchino (2011)

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Gary Simeone (2011)

Rick Walters (2011)

Madelyn Tivnan (2011)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

(3 YEAR TERMS – CHP 40, SEC 8C)

Brian Silva	(2011)	
Richard Provencher	(2011)	
Jesse Serrano	(2011)	
Gordon DeWolf	(2012)	
Diane Oliver-Jensen	(2012)	Resigned
John Hooven	(2013)	Resigned
Christine M. Long	(2013)	
Eric Tunley	(2013)	
James Talvy	(2012)	

(COA) WB SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

Cynthia Norden, Director	(2011)
Betty Frew, Asst. Director	(2011)

COUNCIL ON AGING

Beverly Cassavant	(2011)	
Catherine Buzzell	(2011)	
Connie Pratt	(2012)	
Oliver Hill	(2012)	
Gloria Hanks	(2013)	
Jim Pierce	(2013)	
Edward Perry	(2013)	Resigned 7/20/10
Irene White	(2013)	
Eric Tunley	(2013)	

COUNCIL ON AGING CUSTODIAN

Justyna Ball	(2011)
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COUNCIL ON AGING SMC ELDER BUS BOARD

Cynthia M. Norden	(2011)
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CUSTODIAN OF PROPERTY

Board of Selectmen (2011)

CULTURAL GRANTS COUNCIL

Joan Veinot (2011)

Kenneth Miller (2011)

Fern Maskell (2011)

Kate Kane (2011)

Marion Hunt (2011)

Richard Ullman (2011)

Barry Gillogly (2011)

Paula Slade (2011)

Cynthia Laub (2011)

EARTH REMOVAL BOARD

Bob Lipovsky (2011) Planning

Jason Paquette (2011) Health

Michael Frew (2011) Selectmen

Gordon DeWolf (2011) Conservation

Richard Aube (2011) Zoning

E-911 COORDINATOR

Paul Lupacchino (2011)

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

Kevin Dunivan (2011) Alternate

Donald Puduski (2011) Resigned 2/25/11

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

C. Thomas O'Donnell (2011)

ETHICS COMMISSION LIAISON

Sarah Allen (2011)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Johanna Barry (2012)

FIRE CHIEF

Paul Lupacchino (2011)

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Robert Benson	Deputy Chief
Daniel Santos	Assistant Chief
Wesley Cassavant	Captain, Retired
Joseph Landry	Lieutenant
Scott Anderson	Training Lieutenant
David Tebo	Lieutenant

FOREST FIRE WARDEN

Paul Lupacchino (2011)

**GAS PIPING & GAS APPLIANCES/PLUMBING
INSPECTOR**

Joseph Ciejka	(2011)	
Carl Marco	(2011)	Alternate

HARBORMASTER

Joseph Borlikoski (2011)

HAZARDOUS WASTE COORDINATOR

Brian Charron	(2011)	
David Tebo	(2011)	Assistant

HIGHWAY CLERK

Tammi Kemp (2011)

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

James P. Daley (2011)

HISTORICAL COMMISSION (7 MEMBER BOARD)

Nancy Parker	(2011)	
Amy Dugas	(2011)	
Richard Rossman	(2012)	Rotating 3 year term
Edwin Dow	(2012)	
Barbara Rossman	(2013)	
David Fitzgerald	(2013)	
Anne Marie Nolan	(2013)	

HISTORICAL CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION

Peggy Walker (2011)

INSECT & PEST CONTROL INSPECTOR

James DiMaio (2011)

LAKE WICKABOAG DREDGING ADMINISTRATORS

Melvin Dorman	(2011)
John Frizzell	(2011)
Jason Paquette	(2011)

LIAISONS

Michael Frew	To Highway Department
Barry Nadon, Jr.	To Quaboag School District
David Eisenthal	To Fire & Police Departments

LIBRARY CHILDREN'S SERVICES LIBRARIAN

Margot Christakis Interim

LIBRARY CUSTODIAN

Vacant (2010)

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Lisa Careau	(2011)
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MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

Timothy Morrell	(2011)
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Gordon DeWolf	(2011)
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Sonia Burke	(2011)
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MUNICIPALITIES ORGANIZED FOR REGIONAL EFFECTIVENESS (MORE) REPRESENTATIVES

Barry J. Nadon, Jr.	(2011)
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Michael Frew	(2011)	Alternate
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MUSIC COMMITTEE

Susan LaBarge	(2011)	Resigned
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Kevin Dorman	(2011)	Resigned
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Kathy Savary	(2011)	Resigned
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Leane Pierce	(2011)	Resigned
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Dave Pierce	(2011)	Resigned
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Tammy Tuttle	(2011)	Resigned
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John Tuttle	(2011)	Resigned
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David Frazier	(2011)	Resigned
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Reed Savary	(2011)	Resigned
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Valerie Kozec	(2011)	Resigned
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Tina Fitzgerald	(2011)	Resigned
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Heidi-Jo Kemp	(2011)	Resigned
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Lisa Marie Berthel	(2011)
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Patricia Woffenden	(2011)	Secretary
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Cindy Larsen	(2011)	Co-Chair and Co-Treasurer
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Robyn Scott	(2011)
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Diana Lask	(2011)	Co-Treasurer
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Rebecca Fay	(2011)	Co-Chair
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	(2011)	Concession Chair
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Tracy Ashworth	
Eric Von Bleicken	(2011)
Jaclyn Von Bleicken	(2011)
Talya Westbrook	(2011)

OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Tim Morrell	(2011)	Planning
Anne Marie Nolan	(2011)	Historical
Mary Beth Czaja	(2011)	LWPA (Ex-Officio)
Ralph Carlson	(2011)	LWPA
Gordon DeWolf	(2011)	Conservation
Vacant	(2011)	Recreation (Ex-Officio)

PARKING CLERK

Teresa Barrett	(2011)
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POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

C. Thomas O'Donnell

SERGEANT

Charles LaPerle	(2011)
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FULL TIME POLICE OFFICERS

Harold Parker	Lifetime*	3 year rollover
S. Patrick Swain	Lifetime*	3 year rollover
Edwin Ward	(2011)	
Matt Letendre	(2011)	

PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS

David Pierce	Lifetime*	3 year rollover
Marissa Brown	Lifetime*	3 year rollover
Brian Ayers	Lifetime*	3 year rollover
Eric Mawhinney	Lifetime*	3 year rollover
Kara Hartung	(2012)	
Eric Iwaniec	(2012)	
Herbert Duggan	(2011)	

CONSTABLES

C. Thomas O'Donnell	(2011)
Arthur Tatro	(2011)
John Healy	(2011)
David Pierce	(2011)
Harold Parker	(2011)
Michael H. Frew	(2011)
Marissa Brown	(2011)
Charles LePerle	(2011)
S. Patrick Swain	(2011)
Edwin Ward	(2011)

POLICE DEPARTMENT CLERK

Tammi Kemp	(2011)
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QUABOAG HIGH SCHOOL MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVE

Barry J. Nadon, Jr.	(2011)
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QUABOAG PLANTATION, 350TH ANNIVERSARY (2010)
COMMITTEE

Bill Jenkins	(2011)
Ruth Lyon	(2011)
Richard Rossman	(2011)
Rob Lyon	(2011)
Brad Hibbard	(2011)
Merton Kenniston	(2011)
Bev Kenniston	(2011)

QUABOAG PLANTATION, 350TH ANNIVERSARY (2010)
LOCAL COMMITTEE

Barry J. Nadon, Jr.	(2011)
Susan Nadon	(2011)
Ron Benoit	(2011)
LuAnn Benoit	(2011)
Lisa Careau	(2011)
Beverly Kenniston	(2011)
Merton Kenniston	(2011)
Cindy Laub	(2011)
Rob Lyon	(2011)
Ruth Lyon	(2011)
Anne Marie Nolan	(2011)
Dennis Martin	(2011)
Sandy Martin	(2011)
Jeff Robins	(2011)
Richard Rossman	(2011)
Barbara Rossman	(2011)
Dana Searah	(2011)
Pam Searah	(2011)
Dan Sykes	(2011)
Alan Weeks	(2011)

QUABOAG VALLEY BUSINESS ASST. CORP REP.

David Eisenthal (2011)

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Paris Gogos (2011)

John Vayda (2011)

Teresa Barrett (2011)

John Schlosstein (2011)

REGATTA COMMITTEE

Ken Henneman (2011)

Mark Tuttle (2011)

Mark O'Donnell (2011)

Dave Callahan (2011)

Marc Pontbriand (2011)

Reed Savary (2011)

REGIONAL TASK FORCE

Michael Frew (2011)

David Eisenthal (2011)

Barry Nadon, Jr. (2011)

REPRESENTATIVE TO CENTRAL DISPATCH

C. Thomas O'Donnell (2011)

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ROCK HOUSE

Barry J. Nadon, Jr. (2011)

RIGHT TO KNOW MUNICIPAL COORDINATOR

Brian Charron (2011)

ROAD PROJECTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Michael Frew	(2011)
Jim Daley	(2011)
Jeff Robbins	(2011)
Bill King	(2011)
Keith Arsenault	(2011)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OFFICER

Teri Ann Roberts	(2011)
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STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

James Daley	(2010)	Highway
Suzanne LePage	(2010)	Member at Large
John Frizzell	(2011)	Health
Johanna Barry	(2011)	Selectmen
Gordon DeWolf	(2011)	Conservation
Robert Benson	(2011)	Water
Diane Oliver-Jensen	(2011)	Planning, Resigned
Vacant	(2011)	Planning

TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Marie Arsenault	(2013)
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TOWN COUNSEL

Petrini & Associates	(2011)
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TOWN HALL CUSTODIAN

Keith Bordeau	(2011)
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TREE WARDEN

Jason Benoit	(2011)
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TRIATHLON COMMITTEE

Daniel Sykes	(2011)
Tracey Waz	(2011)
Dennis Martin	(2011)
Neal Stevens	(2011)

VETERAN'S AGENT

Edwin LaMontagne	(2011)	Deceased
S. Patrick Swain	(2011)	

WAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Ron Marchessault	(2011)
John Murphy	(2011)
Anna May Zabek	(2011)

WMCTF COMMITTEE

Western MA Casino Task Force		
Barry J. Nadon, Jr.	(2011)	Representative
David Eisenthal	(2011)	Alternate

WHITE CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE

Madaline Arn	(2011)
Richard Rossman	(2011)
Charlotte Boos	(2011)
Barbara Rossman	(2011)
Ursula Couture	(2011)

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (APPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE
PRIOR TO MARCH 1ST)**

Kevin Dorman	(2011)	
David Broschart	(2011)	Associate Member (*1AM's - rotating 2 year term)
Joan Veinot	(2012)	
George Hibbard	(2012)	Associate Member (* 1AM is Chairs choice)
Richard Aube	(2013)	

ZONING OFFICER

Gary Simeone	(2011)
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LIST OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

* Indicates Chairperson. () Indicates Term of Office

MODERATOR

Lynda Plante (2013)

TOWN CLERK

Sarah J. Allen (2013)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

David M. Eisenthal (2011)

Barry J. Nadon, Jr. (2012)

Michael H. Frew (2013)

TOWN TREASURER

Keith R. Arsenault (2013)

TAX COLLECTOR

Teresa M. Barrett (2013)

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Peggy J. Walker (2011)

Kevin G. Dorman (2012)

William F. Mansfield (2013)

BOARD OF HEALTH

Jason Paquette (2011)

Melvin F. Dorman (2012)

John E. Frizzell, Sr. (2013)

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Linda Carpenter	(2011)	
Michael Carr	(2011)	Resigned 6/06/09
Evelyn Kwasniewski	(2011)	Resigned 2/0/11
Vacant	(2011)	
Paul D. Spencer	(2011)	
Michael Ozbayrak	(2012)	
Alexandra McNitt	(2012)	
Mark A. Jordan	(2013)	*
Jeffrey R. Robbins	(2013)	

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Barry J. Nadon, Sr.	(2011)
Lester Paquette, Sr.	(2012)
Robert E. Benson	(2013)

COMMON COMMITTEE

Teri A. Roberts	(2011)
Sarah Allen	(2012)
Robert Joseph Richard	(2013)

HOUSING AUTHORITY (5 YEAR TERMS)

Michael J. Frew	(2010)	State Appt 5 yr term
John J. Murphy	(2011)	
Beverly Anderson	(2012)	
Peggy Walker	(2014)	
James F. Pierce	(2015)	

PLANNING BOARD

Merton E. Kenniston	(2011)	
Robert Lipovsky	(2012)	
Timothy S. Morrell	(2013)	
Robert J. Brodak	(2014)	
Joyce Diane Oliver	(2015)	Resigned
Vacancy	(2015)	

QUABOAG REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Clifford G. Fountain	(2011)	
Thomas C. Baker	(2011)	
Lori L. Loughlin	(2011)	
Caroline Nofio	(2011)	
John Dolan	(2012)	
Leane M. Pierce	(2012)	
Daniel Korzec	(2012)	
Renee Chisholm	(2012)	
Louise M. Fecteau	(2013)	Resigned
Laurie A. Hebert	(2013)	
Dolores A. M. Morin	(2013)	
Paula Messier	(2013)	
Daniel P. Para	(2013)	Partial Term to May 2011 by BOS

MODERATOR

West Brookfield held two Town Meetings in 2010. The Annual Town Meeting was held on May 11th, with 119 of the town's registered voters - or 5.2% - in attendance. A second meeting was held on October 14th with 56 of voters - or 2.4% - attending.

The Town Meeting is the legislative branch of West Brookfield's government. The power to enact By-Laws and the power to appropriate funds lies *solely* with the Town Meeting. The Town Meeting is your opportunity to be a part of the governing process.

All registered voters are encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynda D. Plante, Moderator



PARKING CLERK

During 2010, thirty-six (36) parking tickets were issued. Two hundred ten dollars (\$210.00) was collected and turned over to the Treasurer.

Many of the violations were attributed to unauthorized all night parking and the winter parking ban. However, there is a decline of Town Beach parking violations.

Please be advised that from November 1st through April 1st there is a parking ban in effect during the hours of 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.

To obtain a beach parking sticker, please inquire at the Police Department of Selectmen's office.



Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Barrett, Parking Clerk



PLANNING BOARD

During the year, the Board reviewed a total of four *Approval Not Required* (ANR) plans, which required Board action.

A public hearing on a By-law allowing a Farmers' Market on the common was held in April. At the end of the hearing, the Planning Board voted not to approve the proposed By-Law since the town common is excluded from the overlay district by existing By-Law definition and reference maps, thus negating the need for the proposed By-law.

The Board spent a considerable amount of time during the year reviewing Back Lot Zoning Regulations for many nearby MA towns, in an effort to determine if a Back Lot Zoning Regulation would be appropriate for the town, and if so, to draft a proposed By-Law. It is believed that Back Lot Zoning could allow development of a back lot without the current requirement of the creation of a sub-division. This could result in the development of fewer lots. A Back Lot Zoning By-Law draft has now been developed and is expected to be finalized and presented at Town Meeting in May 2011.

Public hearings on the removal of trees on Wigwam Road were held in August. After review of the meeting proceedings, the Planning board approved the removal of all but five of the trees proposed for removal by the Tree Warden. Four large oaks near the North Brookfield border were not approved for removal and a 200-year-old oak near the old Jacob Knight property was also not approved. In both cases, the Highway Department was asked to re-route the road to provide clearance as needed.

In November, the Board received a resignation notice from Diane Oliver. She indicated she would be willing to serve into the new year as required to complete work on the Back Lot Zoning By-Law.

With the State Ethics Training Law now in place, all Planning Board members were required to provide copies of Ethics Training completion to the Town Clerk. This is now required every two years.

The new Open Meeting Law placed additional responsibilities on the Board to publicly post known agenda items in advance of meetings, and to begin the filing of all exhibits used in the Board meetings. This new process is now in place.

Respectfully submitted,

The West Brookfield Planning Board

Timothy Morrell, Chairman

Robert Lipovsky

Robert Brodak

Merton Kenniston

Diane Oliver

Kristin McCarthy, Secretary (Jan. 2010 thru Oct. 2010)

Tracey Mank, Secretary (appointed Nov. 2010)



POLICE DEPARTMENT

The year 2010 was a busy one for the Department. Our calls for service increased by slightly more than 600, going from 3,708 in 2009 to 4,374 in 2010. Increases were seen across all statistical areas, bucking the downward trend of the past few years.

2010, of course, marked the 350th Anniversary of the settling of the Quaboag Plantation. The year-long series of events culminated with the parade in September. This was a wonderful event that brought in more than 7,000 spectators. Parade organizer, Madeline Arn, did a great job pulling the event together. I would like to extend a sincere *thank you* to our neighboring departments: Fire, Rescue, Highway, 911 Center, and the Massachusetts State Police for helping us with the public safety needs for the parade.

This year the Department stuck its toe in the social media arena, with the launch of our Facebook® page. We hope this will be another way we can keep the residents informed of major events and information they may need. We invite you to take a look, and we would love to hear any suggestions on improving its content.

As always, the Department strives to give the citizens of West Brookfield the best service possible. We deeply appreciate your support.

Respectfully submitted,
Chief C. Thomas O'Donnell, Jr.

The following are examples of calls for service handled by the Department in 2010.

911-Hang up	50	Abandoned MV	1
Alarms	144	Animal calls	127
Assist citizen	188	Assault	8
Assist other agencies	131	Burglary	12
Building check	133	Carbon Monoxide alarm	4
Complaint /non-specific	77	Disturbance	61
Disabled vehicle	66	Domestic Disturbance	20
Escort	25	Assist Fire Department	78
Gunshots	6	Harassment	8
Hazardous incident	4	Illegal dumping	4
Investigation/non-specific	33	Juvenile offenses	4
Kidnapping	1	Larceny	23
Lockout	45	Medical emergency	435
Motor Vehicle accident	90	Compliant motor vehicle operations	73
Motor Vehicle Investigation	308	Motor Vehicle – stop	975
Notification	10	Officer initiated/non-specific	451
Property damage/vandalism	19	Annoying calls	8
Lost/found property	14	Psychiatric Emergency	35
Records check	21	Repossession	9
Serve restraining order	12	Safety Hazard	124
Stolen vehicle	6	Snow Ban	2
Serve summons	42	Suspicious activity	83
Threat	5	Trespass	12
Traffic control	218	Serve warrant	23
Welfare check	62		

The 965 motor vehicle stops conducted by the Department, in 2010, had the following results:

Criminal Complaints	32	Civil Infractions	162
Arrests	11	Written Warnings	365
Verbal Warnings	388	Voided for Procedural Error	7

During 2009, one hundred and nine (109) people were charged with crimes and six (6) were taken into protective custody. The following is a summary of the charges filed.

Assault and Battery	16	Assault and Battery with Dangerous Weapon	2
Burglary	8	Larceny	10
OUI	7	Warrant Arrests	10
Suspended/Revoked License	15	Reckless/Negligent Operation of a Vehicle	3
Leaving the Scene of an Accident	1	Uninsured Vehicle	5
Possession of Heroin	4	Abuse Prevention Order Violation	2
Unlicensed Operation	6	Possession of a Class E Substance	1
Possession of Alcohol in Public	4	Possession of Liquor under 21	2
Possession of Firearms w/o FID	1	Operating with Revoked Registration	4
Indecent Assault and Battery – victim under 14	1	Possession of firearm or Ammunition w/o FID	2
Harassment	1	Annoying Calls	2
Harassment Prevention Order Violation	1	Malicious Destruction of Property	7
Witness Intimidation	2	Credit Card Fraud	2
Forgery	2	Leaving the Scene of an Accident	1

Reckless Endangerment of a Child	2	Uttering	2
Possession of a Dangerous Weapon	2	Enticement of a Child	1
Arson	1	Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor	5
Illegal Dumping	2	Motor Vehicle Theft	1
Failure to Stop for Police	2	Vandalism of a Boundary Marker	1
Trespassing with a Vehicle	1	Trespassing	3
Attaching Plates	1	Assault and Battery on a Person over 60	1
Assault and Battery on a Police Officer	1	Discharge of Smoking Material	1
Giving a False Name	1	Threatening to Commit a Crime	1
Number Plate Violation	1	Improper Storage of a Firearm	2



PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION

Local Access (aka: West Brookfield Public Access Television, Channel 11 or WBTV) has maintained its 24/7 goal of providing diverse programming, bulletin board and restoration of vintage footage of past years taped programs.

Equipment:

1. Purchase of a computer access record turntable to pull sound tracks for various video projects. Eventually, in addition to making copies of shows for the public (at a reasonable fee) the station will use this turntable to restore old LPs into CD format (for a fee).

Programming:

2. The station continues to provide multi-age oriented programming.

Volunteers:

3. Outreach for volunteer producers via word of mouth and the Channel 11 Bulletin Board continues as last year.

Bulletin Board:

4. WBTV has continued to increase the number of local event bulletins. Due to the down turn in the economy, we still have not charged an underwriter fee in 2010 for commercial bulletins. We will monitor the situation as time goes on for any further moves.

Additional Notes for 2011:

5. The primary goal for 2011 will be to continue to encourage local production.
6. Due to a request by Brett Kustigian, I am assisting the West Brookfield Elementary School to evaluate and assist in activating their infrastructure to broadcast all Regional and Local School meetings and WBE event broadcasts (plus a possible bulletin board of their own).
7. Dated Channel 11 equipment that was originally to be sold in 2010 was not, as I discovered the station did not have a rotating account. We are requesting the authorization for said account to be brought forward in the next Town Meeting. I did not discover this account issue until the station sold over \$600 in DVD copies of the Anniversary Parade and found that all monies went into the Town's General Fund. Good for them, not so good for us.

Respectfully submitted,
Barry Gillogly, Chairman



QUABOAG VALLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION & QUABOAG VALLEY BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

In 2010, the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (CDC) and its affiliate agency, the Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation (BAC) continued its focus on community economic development issues, particularly through assistance to small businesses. The Board of Directors of the BAC includes a representative appointed by the Selectmen from each of the fifteen participant towns. West Brookfield's appointee is David Eisenthal.

The BAC made small business loans using funds from a CDBG grant through the Town of Palmer for the benefit of fourteen towns in the region. The BAC also has a line of credit with seven area banks: *Bank of America, Country Bank for Savings, FamilyFirst Bank, Monson Savings Bank, North Brookfield Savings Bank, Southbridge Savings Bank, and Spencer Savings Bank*. In 2010, nine loans were approved totaling \$327,400. These loans were in the following towns: *Brookfield, Holland, Palmer, Spencer, Ware, and Warren*.

The CDC continued to provide direct assistance to small businesses throughout the year, interacting with 68 businesses within the region. Of these, 58 received at least one hour of individual business technical assistance with an average of 10.7 hours each. In some cases, this was in the form of business planning assistance. In other cases, it was outside consulting with attorneys, accoun-

tants, computer specialists, bookkeepers, and marketing consultants. Most was underwritten by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Business Development. In the Town of West Brookfield, two (2) businesses were assisted.

Computer and business training to businesses, employees, and the general public continued through the CDC, in 2010, in three locations: Palmer, Ware, and Brimfield. Sixty-two (62) individuals received training, including two (2) from West Brookfield.

The two organizations continued to be supported by local municipalities, libraries, and banks as well as state and federal grants.

Residents are encouraged to contact the CDC with business financing, training, or technical assistance needs by calling **413-967-3001** or visiting the website:

www.qvcdc.com

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Rutherford, Executive Director



RESCUE SQUAD

The West Brookfield Rescue Squad responded to over five hundred eighty seven (587) **911** calls in 2010, our 58th year of service to West Brookfield. Our call volume continues to increase yearly, up over 12 % in 2010. This is more than a 112% increase from 2005. The majority of calls continue to be for medical emergencies, but the numbers also reflect motor vehicle accidents, assisting the fire department at fire scenes, lift assists, and patient evaluations and referrals.

The Rescue Squad currently has twenty-three active EMTs, the result of our active effort to recruit and financially support their EMT training. We will soon add four more EMTs who are completing their training. Our goal continues to be to provide the Town of West Brookfield with 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, emergency service.

In the spring of 2009, with more active EMTs available, the squad changed its emergency response from a “volunteer response” to a paid on-call shift schedule system. The monthly schedule gives 24x7 coverage with three 8-hour shifts. This decision was also driven by the daily need for services. With one year of schedules experienced, we can say it has strengthened our ability to cover our call volume and provide a faster response. This change was done at no cost to the community and we have found that this program has allowed us to cover most, if not all, of our calls. At times, however, when *a full crew is unavailable or additional ambulances are needed*, we continue to rely on neighboring towns for mutual aid. We also rely on these towns for ALS (Advanced Life Support) for patients as needed.

In order to meet the demand for our increasing call volume and our continued goal of complete 24-hour coverage, the Rescue Squad continues to need more EMTs. Baystate Mary Lane Hospital offers EMT courses through its Community Outreach Department. The next scheduled course is September 2011. Participants that complete the course and join the squad will be reimbursed the tuition fee, after the successful completion of a membership application, pre-employment physical, and a probationary period of active service. With financial difficulties facing many, the WBRS is again able to offer scholarships to qualifying students who are able to make a commitment of service to the squad.

West Brookfield Rescue Squad welcomes new members at any time. Anyone interested in joining can contact President Paul Lupacchino (**508-867-3742**) or any other squad member.

2010 was marked with sadness for the Rescue Squad. It brought the end to an era of the West Brookfield Rescue Squad we will never forget. On November 9th we lost our last charter member, past President and past Fire Chief Warren E. Gresty. Chief Gresty served West Brookfield for over 43 years and was one of the original 12 members of the Rescue Squad. Chief Gresty, with his fellow members, formed the foundation of the Rescue Squad and remained a big supporter of the Rescue Squad during his years of retirement.



He always concerned himself with the Squad's operations, assuring that the Rescue Squad would always be available in time of need. Chief was glad to see the Squad remain very much like it was originally formed, run by compassionate individuals who care about their neighbors and fellow residents. We thank Chief Warren Gresty for the examples he gave and for the support and guidance he shared. We will carry the torch with pride, remembering the goals and desires of all original Charter Members: to serve and protect the residents of West Brookfield.

West Brookfield Rescue Squad continues to be committed to giving back to the community. First Responder and CPR training is provided free of charge to



various town departments, as needed, and offered to the public throughout the year, time permitting. The Rescue Squad maintains the Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in the following locations: Elementary School, Senior Center, Library and the Town Hall – all free of charge to the community. With this dedication, West Brookfield has been designated *a heart safe community* by Central Mass Regional Office of Emergency Medical Services and the American Heart Association.

The cost of operating the Rescue Squad continues to rise, not only with the above mentioned community services provided, but a large anticipated expense in the near future: a replacement ambulance is being designed at the writing of this report. This expense has an anticipated cost at today's price tag of nearly \$200,000.00. This expenditure will be needed very soon because the current ambulance is over 10 years old.

All of the Rescue Squad's expenses are covered by utilizing the monies collected from insurance company reimbursements for services, the Annual Subscription Drive, and the Memorial and general contributions given generously throughout the year. Our services continue to be offered to the Town of West Brookfield for "ZERO" tax dollars, and without your continued generosity, it would be very difficult to continue this service.

Please remember, the West Brookfield Rescue Squad is a state licensed "EMERGENCY TRANSPORT" ambulance. We are unable to provide transport to the hospital for non-emergency evaluations, treatments, or appointments under our state license.

*Please call **911**, the **EMERGENCY ONLY NUMBER**, when a **LIFE THREATENING OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY ARISES**.*

We would like to thank the residents of West Brookfield for their continued support of our efforts. We appreciate the continued financial support through the Subscription Drive, Memorial Contributions, and other generous donations throughout the year. And, as always, we would like to thank the Police, Fire, Highway, and Central Dispatch for their help and support when needed, but most of all we would like to thank our *families* for their understanding and support for the work we do to help keep West Brookfield safe.

MEMBERS:

President, BOD: Paul Lupacchino

Vice-President, BOD: M. Christine Coulthard-Schlosstein

Board of Directors: Daniel Santos; Edward Ye; Laura Charron; Renee White (Cook); Elissa Boos

Members: Peggy Walker; Joshua Howe; Ashley Hopkins; Michelle Carroll; Brian Charron; Nadine Barley; Patricia Lupacchino; Jim Boos; Diane Merriam; Lori Merriam; Dan McCall; Brandon Fullum; Tammi Kemp; David Dodson; John Drane; Cherie St. Francis; Brian Dustin; Pam Searah (Admin.)

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Lupacchino, President
The Board of Directors, West Brookfield Rescue Squad



STORMWATER AUTHORITY

The major business this year has been the planning and application for a new 319 Grant to dredge the two small ponds adjacent to the Town Beach, which is a continuation of our work to control sedimentation into Lake Wickaboag.

We had a workshop on Manure Management provided by Dr. Masoud Hashemi, Dr. Stephen Herbert, and Tom Akin from UMASS hosted at the farm of Jim Talvy on North Main Street.

Diane Oliver-Jensen resigned from the Authority.

We welcomed the new Highway Superintendent, Jim Daley, and Suzanne LePage as new members.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon DeWolf, Chairman
Johanna Barry
Bob Benson
John Frizzell
Jim Daley
Suzanne LePage



Tax Collector

Totals represent posting activity year to date January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010

Fiscal Year	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Totals
Real Estate Tax	\$1,966,610.08	\$4,110,313.50	\$4,042,971.82	\$3,929,395.06	\$3,975,993.47	\$18,025,283.93
Interest on Real Estate	\$1,760.80	\$14,319.82	\$23,733.24	\$25,887.54	\$26,850.94	\$92,552.34
Supplemental Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,283.45	\$1,283.45
Interest on Supplemental	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Personal Property Tax	\$37,374.13	\$67,261.07	\$57,524.14	\$50,310.57	\$47,379.77	\$259,849.68
Interest on Personal Property	\$6.48	\$63.07	\$179.39	\$89.81	\$49.79	\$388.54
Motor Vehicle/Trailer Excise	\$0.00	\$342,637.91	\$370,350.29	\$404,123.98	\$429,661.09	\$1,546,773.27
Interest on MV/Trailer Excise	\$0.00	\$1,770.83	\$4,506.91	\$3,117.74	\$3,106.79	\$12,502.27
Total Receipts	\$2,005,751.49	\$4,536,366.20	\$4,499,265.79	\$4,412,924.70	\$4,484,325.30	\$19,938,633.48

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Barrett, Collector of Taxes

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Technology Committee continues in its effort to serve all of the departments operating in the Town Hall with their technology needs, requests, and support. The hardware in each of the departments is getting old and needing to be replaced. As such, we are beginning to buy new computers for all of the departments, attempting to replace the older ones first before they fail completely. We have been updating and working with the Advisory Committee, as requested, with regard to capital purchases for these replacements. Very soon we will need to look at replacing the server, which is 6 years old and has required many recent support calls to fix issues. The other issue we will have is that the new computers are working with the latest operating system while the server runs on a much older version. There is a great deal of incompatibility that we need to program around. This is inefficient and we would realize many benefits by utilizing a new operating system on the server.

Our backups have been fairly stable this year and any issues we encountered were remedied either internally or through our technical support group, TCG. They have also been called upon to resolve any major issue encountered that has prohibited work during the day. They have been very responsive, getting help to us in a timely manner. By all accounts, our departments have been happy with the support they have given us.

New equipment purchased during this year is as follows:

- 1 Computer for the Assessor's Office
- 1 Printer for the Tax Collector
- 1 Monitor and hardware to rebuild an old computer for the Fire Department

Older equipment is kept on hand to rebuild, very inexpensively, as we did for the Fire Department this year to give them an additional computer in their office.

We will continue to provide the support needed by all of the departments with their technology requirements.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary M. Simeone, Chairman
Richard Walters
Madelyn Tivnan



TOWN CLERK

SPECIAL STATE ELECTION JANUARY 19, 2010 RESULTS

SENATOR IN CONGRESS	Vote for One
SCOTT P. BROWN	907
MARTHA COAKLEY	524
JOSEPH L. KENNEDY	18
BLANKS	0
WRITE IN	0
TOTAL	1,449

2010 Annual Town Meeting Warrant and the Advisory Committee Report

Election – Tuesday, May 4th, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
West Brookfield Senior Center

Annual Town Meeting – Tuesday, May 11th, 7:00p.m.
West Brookfield Elementary School

***PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT TO THE ANNUAL TOWN
MEETING FOR YOUR PERSONAL REFERENCE.***

West Brookfield Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee members are appointed by the Selectmen for three-year overlapping terms and we are charged with reviewing and making recommendations on all articles that appear in any warrant presented to the voters of West Brookfield. In calendar year 2009, we met twenty-two times at an average of one and three quarters hours per meeting to fulfill our responsibilities. Agendas for all of our meetings are now posted on TVWB and agendas and minutes are posted on the WB web page. A voter budget informational meeting was held prior to the October special town meeting and another budget informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 beginning at 7:15 pm.

The fiscal year 2010 operating budget to support West Brookfield operational services seems to be relatively intact absence any additional reductions in state support by the Governor. Looking ahead to fiscal year 2011 presents some challenges. While the national and state economies are slowly emerging from recession, the preliminary forecast for state support for cities and towns has been reduced for fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. Local property tax increases are limited to two and one-half percent and new growth in real estate activities and fee income sources will continue to be at the lowest levels we have seen in several years.

For fiscal 2011, the Advisory Committee has requested that cost of living salary adjustments, except for step and grade increases, be limited to 0% (2%-3% in prior years) and also, that budgeted expenses (excluding salary adjustments) be limited to 0% of the approved fiscal year 2010 budgeted expenses. However, contract negotiations are underway with the police union and the school district continues negotiating a new contract with the teachers' union. The final agreements either case could add additional expense to our budget projections.

Recent information from state officials indicate that the financial support for our schools for fiscal year 2011 may be \$300,000 to \$400,000 less currently projected. The school committee may ask Warren and West Brookfield voters to approve some of this additional funding if needed. If the Governor has to cut expenses again in the next fiscal year as he has had to do last fiscal year, we will have to revisit our projections and respond accordingly. Preliminary operating budget figures, excluding debt, are as follows:

Omnibus operating budget requests	\$5,779,112
Article request for recurring items	<u>112,500</u>
Total recurring operating needs	<u>\$5,891,612</u>
Raise & appropriate funds	\$5,501,904
To be funded from other sources	<u>389,708</u>
Total funding needed	<u>\$5,891,612</u>

Due to the prudent financial management of this and prior Advisory Committees, the Town of West Brookfield has some financial resources for funding budget priorities in times like these. Free cash on hand is now \$545,537 of which \$277,208 is projected to be used to fund the amounts needed above the raise and appropriate estimate for this year. That will leave \$268,329 to help fund \$247,848 in article requests received and deferred to a fall town meeting.

West Brookfield is fortunate to have three stabilization accounts. The \$284,129 fire truck account was established for the purchase of a new truck. With a new fire chief recently appointed, a complete examination of all of the fire vehicles was completed with the conclusion that with upgrades and repairs, the purchase of a new truck could be further postponed. However, we will need to use up to \$40,000 from this account to bring the current fleet up to recommended service levels. The \$1,624,319 general stabilization account has been reserved for capital projects and the Advisory Committee has recommended that the account balance not dip below 10% of the annual operating budget, or currently a mini

mum balance of about \$.6 million. As observed below, there are more than eight million dollars in projects that need to be funded over the next several years. A recently proposed financial policy statement for the town recommends that stabilization accounts not be used for operating expenses. At the May 11, 2010 annual town meeting, voters will be asked to approve spending \$200,000 from this stabilization account for repairing and upgrading the WB Elementary School heating system. The \$2,095,124 Water Stabilization account was created from the receipt of MTBE settlement funds from various oil companies. Another \$263,977 in receipts during fiscal year 2010 may be added to the account at the May town meeting. The Advisory Committee has recommended that this account be used for upgrades to the aging well and water distribution system, but to leave a balance of at least \$1.5 million in the account until it is determined that there will never be an MTBE claim the town will have to defend or pay.

During this last year, we again compiled the capital spending requirements for the next five years and were provided with the following estimates:

Police Department facilities	2,000,000	No activity at this time
Police firearms replacements	20,000	To be funded over several years
Fire Department expansion	700,000	No activity at this time
Fire Department equipment	70,000	Fire truck repair and turnout gear
Library	350,000	Various repairs
WB Elementary School heating system	200,000	Stabilization account funding
WB Elementary school replacements	1,050,000	Repairs & replacements
Quaboag Middle/High School	156,000	Repairs & replacements
Highway Road maintenance	2,000,000	Town & Chapter 90 funds
	568,069	Fleet account projections

Vehicle replacements

Water department wells, pipes and filters	1,500,000	Funded in part with MTBE Settlement
Estimated Total	<hr/> \$8,629,069	

The Advisory Committee will be reviewing these items in more detail during 2010. Voters may be asked to fund some of these expenditures at the 2010 town meetings and some will be postponed to future years. We are also looking into grants, loans and other resources to fund some of these items.

Our continuing updated vehicle purchase analysis for the next five years shared with voters at the town meetings has proven to be a useful tool. After discussions with department managers, we have deferred for two years a decision to purchase a new fire truck and considered less expensive options for replacing other vehicles.

With all of our financial needs and limited resources, we are going to have to continue to carefully manage our budget priorities over the next several years.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Collings, Chair

Phil Landine

Roy Roberts

Tom Schnare

Jack Tivnan

Diane Vayda

Nicole Vongratsamy

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of West Brookfield
*****Annual Town Meeting******

Worcester, SS.

To Either of the Constables of the Town of West Brookfield in the County of Worcester, Greetings.

In the **NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the **WEST BROOKFIELD SENIOR CENTER** on **73 Central Street** in said **WEST BROOKFIELD** on **TUESDAY**, the **FOURTH** day of **MAY 2010** at **8:00 AM** until **8:00 PM**, then and there to elect by ballot the following Town Officers in article #1, and at the **WEST BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** in said **WEST BROOKFIELD** on **TUESDAY** the **ELEVENTH** day of **MAY 2010** at **7:00 PM**, then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1

*To bring in their votes for one (1) Selectman for 3 years, one (1) Assessor for 3 years, one (1) Board of Health Member for 3 years, one (1) Treasurer for 3 years, one (1) Tax Collector for 3 years, one (1) Moderator for 3 years, one (1) Town Clerk for 3 years, two (2) Library Trustees for 3 years, one (1) Water Commissioner for 3 years, one (1) Common Committee Member for 3 years, one (1) Planning Board Member for 5 years, one (1) Housing Authority Member for 5 years, four (4) Quaboag Regional School Committee Members for 3 years, or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by Town Clerk)*

Article 2

To hear and act upon the Annual Reports of the Town Officers and Committees, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to determine the compensation to be paid to the following elected Town Officers:

	<i>FY'10</i>	<i>FY'11</i>
		<i>Recommended</i>
Moderator	\$150.00	\$150.00
Selectmen, each member	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00

Selectmen, Chairman		
Town Treasurer	\$27,134.00	\$27,405.34
Tax Collector	\$30,547.11	\$30,547.11
Assessors, two members	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Assessors, Clerk	\$48,855.00	\$49,343.55
Board of Health, two members	\$800.00	\$800.00
Board of Health, Chairman	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Town Clerk	\$25,322.93	\$25,322.93
Water Commissioners	\$350.00 each	\$350.00 each

***or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Advisory Board)***

Article 4

***To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury, such sums of money as listed in the Advisory Committee Report and as amended as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year 2010- 2011, and to vote that any State reimbursements which result in available funds to the Quaboag Regional School District, in excess of the approved budget, shall be used to reduce the Town's assessment, or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Advisory Committee)***

Article 5

***To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$14,500.00 and to transfer from the Overlay Surplus Account the sum of \$45,500.00 to be placed in the Reserve Fund to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws known as the Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Advisory Committee)***

Article 6

***To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to pay principal and interest payments owed on bonds for the West Brookfield Elementary School, or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Town Treasurer)***

Article 7

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to pay West Brookfield's share of the principal and interest payments owed on bonds for the Quaboag Regional Middle/High School, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Town Treasurer)

Article 8

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ to authorize the use of a revolving fund to pay cemetery related expenses which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Burial Grounds Commission fees, such expenditures not to exceed \$16,000.00 in fiscal year 2010/2011, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Burial Grounds Commission)

Article 9

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to authorize the use of a revolving fund to pay Police Officer Detail Expenses, which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Details fees, such expenditures not to exceed \$50,000.00 in fiscal year 2010/2011, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Police Department)

Article 10

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to authorize the Stormwater Authority use of a revolving fund, which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Stormwater Authority fees, such expenditures not to exceed \$25,000.00 in fiscal year 2010/2011, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Stormwater Authority)

Article 11

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Water Commissioners to employ their Licensed Water Commissioners at Grade 1 Step 1 (\$10.19 per hour) for standby duty and emergency work in the absence of the Superintendent in Fiscal Year 2010/2011, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Water Department)

Article 12

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Overlay Surplus Account the sum of \$4,500.00 to be placed into the Revaluation Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Assessors)

Article 13

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of \$5,000.00 to be placed in the “Repairs To Private Ways Account” to pay for repairs to private ways within West Brookfield pursuant to M.G.L. Ch 40 S 6N, the repairs to include road materials and related labor expenses only, and further, that all repairs made to private ways will be completed in strict adherence to all applicable state laws and West Brookfield bylaws, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by Board of Selectmen)

Article 14

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter XII, Section 8 of the Town’s General Bylaws by adding the following language:

“Such temporary repairs shall not include work to improve private lands or improvements other than the repaired roadway, or to integrate or connect private driveways or other private improvements with the repaired roadway, which work shall remain the responsibility of the individual landowner.”

Or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Selectmen/Planning Board)

Article 15

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of \$10,000.00 to be placed in the Road Reconstruction Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Highway Department)

Article 16

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of \$12,000.00 to purchase turn out gear, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Fire Department)

Article 17

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of \$10,000.00 to be placed into the Stormwater Management Account to be used to address stormwater issues, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Stormwater Authority)

Article 18

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of \$5,000.00 to be placed into the Tax Title Expense Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Town Treasurer)

Article 19

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 13 of the Town's General By-Laws, Use of Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places, by adopting and inserting the following section therein:

"13.13 Public Consumption Or Use Of Marijuana Or Tetrahydrocannabinol.

- A. No person, whether in or upon a vehicle, motor vehicle, conveyance, or on foot, shall burn, smoke, ingest, or otherwise use or consume marijuana or tetrahydrocannabinol (as defined in G.L. c94C, s1, as amended) while in or upon any area owned by or under the control of the Town, including but not limited to, any street, sidewalk, public way, footway, passageway, stairs, bridge, park, playground, beach, recreation area, boat landing, public building, school, school grounds, cemetery, or parking lot; or in or upon any place to which the public has a right of access as invitees or licensees.***
- B. Any marijuana or tetrahydrocannabinol burned, smoked, ingested, or otherwise used or consumed in violation of this bylaw shall be seized, held, and disposed of in accordance with G.L. c94Cs47A.***
- C. Whoever is found in violation of this bylaw shall, when requested by an official authorized to enforce this bylaw, state his true name and address to said official.***
- D. This bylaw may be enforced through any lawful means in law or in equity including, but not limited to, enforcement by criminal indictment or complaint pursuant to G.L.c40s21, or by non-***

criminal disposition pursuant to G.L.c40s21D, by the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, or their duly authorized agents, or any police officer.

E. The fine for a violation of this bylaw shall be Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars for each offense. A penalty imposed under this bylaw shall be in addition to any civil penalty imposed under G.L. c94Cs32L.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Police Department and the Town Clerk)

Article 20

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury a sum of money to repair the heating system in the West Brookfield Elementary School, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen)

Article 21

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Fire Truck Stabilization Account the sum of \$40,000.00 to refurbish the Town's fire fleet, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Fire Department)

Article 22

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$7,297.50 from the Water Surplus Account to the Water Expense Account to pay for unexpected legal fees for the Long Hill River Project, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Water Department)

Article 23

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$2,000.00 from the Water Surplus Account to the Water Expense Account to pay for an unexpected furnace replacement at the Water Filtration Plant on Ware Point Road, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Water Department)

Article 24

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Water Stabilization Account into the East Main Street Account to be used to install 80' of 10" DT11 C906PE3608, horizontal directional drilling & appendages, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Water Department)

Article 25

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$5,621.64 from the Water Surplus Account into the Water Expense Account to be used for the replacement of Wells #1&2 pump control stations for KOH at the plant, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Water Department)

Article 26

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$29,836.80 from the Water Surplus Account into the Water Salary Account to pay out sick leave benefits as outlined in the Town's Employee Handbook; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Water Department)

Article 27

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Stabilization Account the sum of \$190,000.00 to be placed into a "New Meter Account", to be used for the replacement of new meters throughout the entire system; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Water Department)

Article 28

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$5,000.00 from the Water Surplus Account into the East Main Street Account to be used for engineering fees for the East Main Street Project of 80' of 10" DT11C906PE3608, horizontal directional drilling & appendages, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Water Department)

Article 29

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the MTBE Settlement Account the sum of \$263,977.17 to be placed into the Water Stabilization Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Water Department)

Article 30

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaws by adding the following to Section 8.4.1 under Town Common Overlay District:

"5. Farmers' market, fair, or other temporary or seasonal sale of primarily agricultural and horticultural products, not to exceed 52 days in the course of a calendar year, provided that no permanent structures are constructed or used for this purpose."

*or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Selectmen/Planning Board)*

Article 31

*To see if the Town will vote, as recommended by the town treasurer and auditor, to accept Section 20 of Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 32B and to establish a separate fund known as the “Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund” as authorized by said Sec. 20, which would enable the town: (a) to create a funding schedule for such fund, and (b) and to appropriate a sum of money at a future town meeting to reduce the unfunded actuarial liability of future retiree health benefit and other post-employment benefits, all in accordance with said statute, or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Town Treasurer and the Board of Selectmen)*

Article 32

*To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury a sum of money to provide some of the highway employees who worked on building the 50’ x 80’ expansion of the highway facility an Outstanding Performance Stipend as outlined in the Employee Handbook; or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen)*

AND you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies at the **BULLETIN BOARD** in the front entrance way of the **TOWN HALL**, in said Town, **FOURTEEN** (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doing thereon, to the Town Clerk, the time and place of meetings, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this ____ day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand ten.

A TRUE COPY. ATTEST:

Selectmen of West Brookfield

Constable

Worcester, SS April _____, 2010 AM PM
Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the **TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD** by posting an attested copy of the same on the Bulletin Board in the front entrance of the **WEST**

BROOKFIELD TOWN HALL fourteen (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Constable of **WEST BROOKFIELD**

*ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
WEST BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 4, 2010*

(*CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION)
RESULTS

SELECTMAN

3 YEARS	VOTE FOR ONE
<i>MICHAEL H. FREW</i>	<i>260</i>
<i>BLANKS</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>WRITE INS</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>305</i>

MODERATOR

3 YEARS	VOTE FOR ONE
<i>LYNDA PLANTE</i>	<i>226</i>
<i>BLANKS</i>	<i>69</i>
<i>WRITE INS</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>305</i>

TOWN CLERK

3 YEARS	VOTE FOR ONE
<i>*SARAH J. ALLEN</i>	<i>248</i>
<i>BLANKS</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>WRITE INS</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>305</i>

TREASURER

3 YEARS	VOTE FOR ONE
<i>*KEITH R. ARSENAULT</i>	<i>246</i>
<i>BLANKS</i>	<i>57</i>
<i>WRITE INS</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>305</i>

TAX COLLECTOR**3 YEARS****VOTE FOR ONE**

<i>*TERESA M. BARRETT</i>	<i>242</i>
BLANKS	57
WRITE INS	6
TOTAL	305

BOARD OF ASSESSORS**3 YEARS****VOTE FOR ONE**

<i>*WILLIAM F. MANSFIELD</i>	<i>238</i>
BLANKS	67
WRITE INS	0
TOTAL	305

BOARD OF HEALTH**3 YEARS****VOTE FOR ONE**

<i>*JOHN E. FRIZZELL, SR.</i>	<i>237</i>
BLANKS	66
WRITE INS	2
TOTAL	305

WATER COMMISSIONER**3 YEARS****VOTE FOR ONE**

<i>*ROBERT E. BENSON</i>	<i>258</i>
BLANKS	46
WRITE INS	1
TOTAL	305

LIBRARY TRUSTEE**3 YEARS****VOTE FOR TWO**

<i>*MARK A. JORDAN</i>	<i>219</i>
JEFFREY R. ROBBINS	191
BLANKS	200
WRITE INS	0
TOTAL	610

COMMON COMMITTEE**3 YEARS****VOTE FOR ONE**

*ROBERT J. RICHARD	179
JEREMY B. MACLACHLAN	101
BLANKS	25
WRITE INS	0
TOTAL	305

PLANNING BOARD**5 YEARS****VOTE FOR ONE**

JOYCE DIANE OLIVER	224
BLANKS	79
WRITE INS	2
TOTAL	305

HOUSING AUTHORITY**5 YEARS****VOTE FOR ONE**

JAMES F. PIERCE	238
BLANKS	65
WRITE INS	2
TOTAL	305

**QUABOAG REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL
COMMITTEE****SCHOOL COMMITTEE ELECTION IS
AT LARGE****3 YEARS - YOU MAY VOTE FOR ANY FOUR
CANDIDATES**

*DOLORES MORIN	165
PAULA MESSIER	164
*LOUISE FECTEAU	188
*LAURIE HEBERT	210
BLANKS	490
WRITE INS	3
TOTAL	1,220

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 11, 2010
RESULTS**

Voted unanimously to allow the following non-voters to sit with the Board of Selectmen:

<i>Barbara Saint Andre</i>	<i>Town Counsel</i>
<i>Johanna Barry</i>	<i>Executive Secretary</i>

and to allow the following non-voters to speak:

<i>Barbara Saint Andre</i>	<i>Town Counsel</i>
<i>Johanna Barry</i>	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
<i>Brett Kustigan</i>	<i>QRSD Superintendent</i>
<i>Joseph Scanlon</i>	<i>Director of Finance & Operations</i>

Article 2

Voted unanimously to receive the Annual Reports of the Town Officers and Committees and place these on file without ratification of any action taken, or authorization of any action proposed.

Article 3

Voted unanimously to determine the compensation to be paid to the following elected Town Officers:

	<i>FY11 Recommended</i>
<i>Moderator</i>	<i>\$150.00</i>
<i>Selectmen, each member</i>	<i>\$1,600.00</i>
<i>Selectmen, Chairman</i>	<i>\$1,600.00</i>
<i>Town Treasurer</i>	<i>\$27,953.45</i>
<i>Tax Collector</i>	<i>\$31,158.05</i>
<i>Assessors, two members</i>	<i>\$1,200.00</i>
<i>Assessors, Clerk</i>	<i>\$50,330.42</i>
<i>Board of Health, two members</i>	<i>\$800.00</i>
<i>Board of Health, Chairman</i>	<i>\$1,000.00</i>
<i>Town Clerk</i>	<i>\$25,829.39</i>
<i>Water Commissioners</i>	<i>\$350.00 each</i>

Article 4

Voted majority to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,501,906.00 and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$407,521.26, to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year 2010- 2011 as printed in the handout dated May 11, 2010 distributed at the meeting, and to vote that any

State reimbursements which result in available funds to the Quaboag Regional School District, in excess of the approved budget, shall be used to reduce the Town's assessment.

Article 5

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$14,500.00 and to transfer from the Overlay Surplus Account the sum of \$45,500.00 to be placed in the Reserve Fund to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws known as the Reserve Fund.

Article 6

Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,432.00 to pay principal and interest payments owed on bonds for the West Brookfield Elementary School.

Article 7

Voted unanimously to pass over this article.

Article 8

Voted unanimously pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ to authorize the use of a revolving fund to pay cemetery related expenses which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Burial Grounds Commission fees, such expenditures not to exceed \$16,000.00 in fiscal year 2010/2011.

Article 9

Voted unanimously pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to authorize the use of a revolving fund to pay Police Officer Detail Expenses, which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Details fees, such expenditures not to exceed \$50,000.00 in fiscal year 2010/2011.

Article 10

Voted unanimously pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to authorize the Stormwater Authority use of a revolving fund, which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Stormwater Authority fees, such expenditures not to exceed \$25,000.00 in fiscal year 2010/2011.

Article 11

Voted unanimously to authorize the Water Commissioners to employ their Licensed Water Commissioners at Grade 1 Step 1 (\$10.40 per

hour) for standby duty and emergency work in the absence of the Superintendent in Fiscal Year 2010/2011.

Article 12

Voted unanimously to transfer from the Overlay Surplus Account the sum of \$4,500.00 to be placed into the Revaluation Account.

Article 13

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000.00 to be placed in the “Repairs To Private Ways Account” to pay for repairs to private ways within West Brookfield pursuant to M.G.L. Ch 40 S 6N, the repairs to include road materials and related labor expenses only, and further, that all repairs made to private ways will be completed in strict adherence to all applicable state laws and West Brookfield bylaws.

Article 14

Voted unanimously to amend Chapter XII, Section 8 of the Town’s General Bylaws by adding the following language:

“Such temporary repairs shall not include work to improve private lands or improvements other than the repaired roadway, or to integrate or connect private driveways or other private improvements with the repaired roadway, which work shall remain the responsibility of the individual landowner.”

Article 15

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000.00 to be placed in the Road Reconstruction Account.

Article 16

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$12,000.00 to purchase turn out gear.

Article 17

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000.00 to be placed into the Stormwater Management Account to be used to address stormwater issues.

Article 18

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000.00 to be placed into the Tax Title Expense Account.

Article 19

A motion was made and second to vote by secret ballot. The motion was defeated by majority vote. A standing vote was conducted.

Voted Yes-40, No-49 to amend Article 13 of the Town's General By-Laws, as printed in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The motion was defeated.

Article 20

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$37,340.00 to repair the heating system in the West Brookfield Elementary School.

Article 21

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 21. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval

Voted unanimously to transfer from the Fire Truck Stabilization Account the sum of \$40,000.00 to refurbish the Town's fire fleet.

Article 22

Voted unanimously to transfer the sum of \$7,297.50 from the Water Surplus Account to the Water Expense Account to pay for legal fees for the Long Hill River Project.

Article 23

Voted unanimously to transfer the sum of \$2,000.00 from the Water Surplus Account to the Water Expense Account to pay for a furnace replacement at the Water Filtration Plant on Ware Point Road.

Article 24

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 24. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval

Voted unanimously to transfer the sum of \$71,341.00 from the Water Stabilization Account into the East Main Street Account to be used to install 80' of 10" DT11 C906PE3608, horizontal directional drilling & appendages.

Article 25

Voted unanimously to transfer the sum of \$5,621.64 from the Water Surplus Account into the Water Expense Account to be used for the replacement of Wells #1&2 pump control stations for KOH at the plant.

Article 26

Voted unanimously to transfer the sum of \$29,836.80 from the Water Surplus Account into the Water Salary Account to pay out sick leave benefits as outlined in the Town's Employee Handbook.

Article 27

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 27. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval

Voted unanimously to transfer from the Water Stabilization Account the sum of \$190,000.00 to be placed into a "New Meter Account", to be used for the replacement of new meters throughout the entire system.

Article 28

Voted unanimously to transfer the sum of \$5,000.00 from the Water Surplus Account into the East Main Street Account to be used for engineering fees for the East Main Street Project of 80' of 10" DT11C906PE3608, horizontal directional drilling & appendages.

Article 29

A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval

Voted unanimously to transfer from the MTBE Settlement Account the sum of \$263,977.17 to be placed into the Water Stabilization Account.

Article 30

Voted unanimously to pass over this article.

Article 31

Voted unanimously, as recommended by the town treasurer and auditor, to accept Section 20 of Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 32B and to establish a separate fund known as the "Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund" as authorized by said Sec. 20, which would enable the town: (a) to create a funding schedule for such fund, and (b) and to appropriate a sum of money at a future town meeting to reduce the unfunded actuarial liability of future retiree health benefit and other post-employment benefits, all in accordance with said statute.

Article 32

Voted majority to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$4,000.00 to provide the following highway employees who worked on building the 50' x 80' expansion of the highway facility an Outstanding Performance Stipend as outlined in the Employee Handbook:

<i>Marc Astrella</i>	<i>\$1,500.00</i>
<i>Duane Cassavant</i>	<i>\$1,500.00</i>
<i>Gregg Waterman</i>	<i>\$ 500.00</i>
<i>Brian Charron</i>	<i>\$ 500.00</i>

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

WARRANT FOR STATE PRIMARY ELECTION

SS.

To the Constables of the Town of West Brookfield

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in Primaries to vote at

PRECINCT 0

POLLING LOCATION 1

SENIOR CENTER, 73 CENTRAL STREET

On TUESDAY, THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2010, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the State Election for the candidates for the following offices:

GOVERNOR.....	FOR THE COMMONWEALTH
LT. GOVERNOR.....	FOR THE COMMONWEALTH
ATTORNEY GENERAL.....	FOR THE COMMONWEALTH
SECRETARY OF STATE.....	FOR THE COMMONWEALTH
TREASURER.....	FOR THE COMMONWEALTH

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	Vote for one
TIMOTHY P. MURRAY	167
BLANKS	41
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	211

ATTORNEY GENERAL	Vote for one
MARTHA COAKLEY	157
BLANKS	51
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	211

SECRETARY OF STATE	Vote for one
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN	165
BLANKS	45
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	211

TREASURER	Vote for one
STEVEN GROSSMAN	94
8STEPHEN J. MURPHY	80
BLANKS	34
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	211

AUDITOR	Vote for one
SUZANNE M. BUMP	60
GUY WILLIAM GLODIS	131
MIKE LAKE	9
BLANKS	9
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	211

Vote for one

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

JOHN W. OLVER	163
BLANKS	45
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	211

COUNCILLOR**Vote for one**

FRANCIS A. FORD	144
BLANKS	66
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	211

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT**Vote for one**

STEPHEN M. BREWER	194
BLANKS	16
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	211

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT**Vote for one**

ANNE M. GOBI	190
BLANKS	21
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	211

DISTRICT ATTORNEY**Vote for one**

JOSEPH D. EARLEY, JR.	175
BLANKS	34
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	211

SHERIFF**Vote for one**

SCOT J. BOVE	101
THOMAS J. FOLEY	95
BLANKS	14
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	211

REPUBLICAN PARTY

GOVERNOR	Vote for one
CHARLES D. BAKER	165
BLANKS	9
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	175

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	Vote for one
RICHARD R. TISEI	152
BLANKS	21
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	175

ATTORNEY GENERAL	Vote for one
BLANKS	133
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>41</u>
TOTAL	175

SECRETARY OF STATE	Vote for one
WILLIAM C. CAMPBELL	149
BLANKS	25
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	175

TREASURER	Vote for one
KARYN E. POLITO	156
BLANKS	19
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	175

AUDITOR	Vote for one
MARY Z. CONNAUGHTON	129
KAMAL JAIN	32
BLANKS	14
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	175

Vote for one

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

WILLIAM L. GUNN, JR.	155
BLANKS	19
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	175

COUNCILLOR**Vote for one**

JENNIE L. CAISSIE	146
BLANKS	28
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	175

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT**Vote for one**

DANIEL D. DUBRULE	146
BLANKS	29
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	175

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT**Vote for one**

RODNEY ARVID JOSEPHSON	149
BLANKS	25
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	175

DISTRICT ATTORNEY**Vote for one**

BLANKS	148
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>27</u>
TOTAL	175

SHERIFF**Vote for one**

LEWIS G. EVANGELIDIS	155
BLANKS	17
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	175

LIBERTARIAN PARTY

GOVERNOR	Vote for one
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	0
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	Vote for one
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	0
ATTORNEY GENERAL	Vote for one
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	0
SECRETARY OF STATE	Vote for one
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	0
TREASURER	Vote for one
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	0
AUDITOR	Vote for one
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	0
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	Vote for one
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	0
COUNCILLOR	Vote for one
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	0
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	Vote for one
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	0
	Vote for one

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	0

DISTRICT ATTORNEY	Vote for one
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	0

SHERIFF	Vote for one
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	0

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of West Brookfield
****Special Town Meeting******

Worcester, SS.

To Either of the Constables of the Town of West Brookfield in the County of Worcester, Greetings:

In the NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the WEST BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 89 NORTH MAIN STREET in said WEST BROOKFIELD on THURSDAY the FOURTEENTH day of OCTOBER 2010, at 7:00PM then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000.00 to be placed in the Reserve Fund to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws known as the Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto. (Sponsored by the Advisory Committee)

Article 2

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$184,115.00 to be used in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 90, such sums of money to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Highway Department)

Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$50,000.00 to be placed into the “Town Building Maintenance Account”, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen)

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000.00 to be placed into the “Town Road Maintenance Account”, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Highway Department)

Article 5

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000.00 to be deposited into the “Fleet Account” or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Selectmen)

Article 6

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$15,000.00 for tax title expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Town Treasurer)

Article 7

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000.00 to be placed in the “Repairs To Private Ways Account” to pay for repairs to private ways within West Brookfield pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40 Section 6N, the repairs to include road materials and related labor expenses only,

and further, that all repairs made to private ways will be completed in strict adherence to all applicable state laws and West Brookfield bylaws, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by Selectmen)

Article 8

To see if the Town will vote to transfer to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of conveying, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey, the parcel of land located off West Main Street shown on Assessors' Map 23 Parcel 12, further described in a deed recorded at the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 4619, page 292, on such terms as the Board of Selectmen deem to be in the best interests of the Town, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute and deliver a deed or confirmatory deed conveying said property, and to take any and all other actions necessary to carry out this article, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Town Treasurer)

Article 9

To see if the Town will vote to rescind excess borrowing authorization in the amount of \$57,000.00 which was authorized at the May 13, 2008 Annual Town Meeting, Article 15, to replace a water pipe under the Quaboag River, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Town Treasurer)

Article 10

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Surplus Account the sum of \$30,000.00 to be placed in the "Water Department Expense Account" to cover electric cost increases, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Water Department)

Article 11

To see if the Town of West Brookfield will vote to appropriate the sum of \$276,000 and, authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen and subject to a positive grant award notification from the "L.A.N.D. Grant Program" of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to take said sum from a "McRevey Family Conservation Restriction Acquisition Account" to be set up with funds to be transferred to the Town by the East

Quabbin Land Trust, or its designee, for the purpose of acquiring a conservation restriction, by negotiated purchase, on a certain property, known as the McRevey Family Trust lands consisting of 340 acres, more or less, and shown on West Brookfield Assessors' Map 25, Lot 21 and 22 and Map 31 Lot 5; that said conservation restriction on land be conveyed to said Town of West Brookfield under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8c, and as it may hereafter be amended and other Massachusetts statutes relating to conservation, to be managed and controlled by the Conservation Commission of the Town of West Brookfield; and to authorize the Conservation Commission to file on behalf of the Town of West Brookfield any and all applications deemed necessary for grants and/or reimbursements from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts deemed necessary under the Chapter 132A, Section 11 and/or any others in any way connected with the scope of this Article; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or Conservation Commission and Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town of West Brookfield to effect said purchase, or take any other action relative thereto. (Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen/East Quabbin Land Trust)

Article 12

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift or otherwise and to accept the deeds to the Town of drainage and/or other easements in all or a portion of parcels of land located on Wigwam Road upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall determine to be appropriate, in connection with the reconstruction of Wigwam Road, and further to see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for this purpose and any expenses related thereto, and authorize the Board of Selectmen and Town officers to take all related actions necessary or appropriate to carry out this acquisition, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Selectmen/Highway Department)

AND you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies at the BULLETIN BOARD in the front entrance way of the TOWN HALL, in said Town, FOURTEEN (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doing thereon, to the Town Clerk, the time and place of meetings, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 21st day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand ten.

A TRUE COPY. ATTEST:

Selectmen of West Brookfield

Constable

Worcester, SS

September _____, 2010 AM PM

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD by posting an attested copy of the same on the Bulletin Board in the front entrance of the WEST BROOKFIELD TOWN HALL fourteen (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Constable of WEST BROOKFIELD

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

WARRANT FOR STATE ELECTION

SS.

To the Constables of the City/Town of West Brookfield

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said city or town who are qualified to vote in the State Election to vote at

**PRECINCT 0
POLLING LOCATION 1
SENIOR CENTER, 73 CENTRAL STREET**

on TUESDAY, THE SECOND DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2010, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the State Election for the candidates for the following offices:

GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
SECRETARY OF STATE. FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
TREASURER FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
AUDITOR FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FIRST DISTRICT
COUNCILLOR SEVENTH DISTRICT
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT WORCESTER, HAMPDEN,
HAMPSHIRE & FRANKLIN DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT. . . 5TH WORCESTER DISTRICT
DISTRICT ATTORNEY MIDDLE DISTRICT
SHERIFF WORCESTER COUNTY

QUESTION 1: Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 4, 2010?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would remove the Massachusetts sales tax on alcoholic beverages and alcohol, where the sale of such beverages and alcohol or their importation into the state is already subject to a separate excise tax under state law. The proposed law would take effect on January 1, 2011.

A YES VOTE would remove the state sales tax on alcoholic beverages and alcohol where their sale or importation into the state is subject to an excise tax under state law.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the state sales tax on alcoholic beverages and alcohol.

QUESTION 2: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by

the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 4, 2010?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would repeal an existing state law that allows a qualified organization wishing to build government-subsidized housing that includes low- or moderate-income units to apply for a single comprehensive permit from a city or town's zoning board of appeals (ZBA), instead of separate permits from each local agency or official having jurisdiction over any aspect of the proposed housing. The repeal would take effect on January 1, 2011, but would not stop or otherwise affect any proposed housing that had already received both a comprehensive permit and a building permit for at least one unit.

Under the existing law, the ZBA holds a public hearing on the application and considers the recommendations of local agencies and officials. The ZBA may grant a comprehensive permit that may include conditions or requirements concerning the height, site plan, size, shape, or building materials of the housing. Persons aggrieved by the ZBA's decision to grant a permit may appeal it to a court. If the ZBA denies the permit or grants it with conditions or requirements that make the housing uneconomic to build or to operate, the applicant may appeal to the state Housing Appeals Committee (HAC).

After a hearing, if the HAC rules that the ZBA's denial of a comprehensive permit was unreasonable and not consistent with local needs, the HAC orders the ZBA to issue the permit. If the HAC rules that the ZBA's decision issuing a comprehensive permit with conditions or requirements made the housing uneconomic to build or operate and was not consistent with local needs, the HAC orders the ZBA to modify or remove any such condition or requirement so as to make the proposal no longer uneconomic. The HAC cannot order the ZBA to issue any permit that would allow the housing to fall below minimum safety standards or site plan requirements. If the HAC rules that the ZBA's action was consistent with local needs, the HAC must uphold it even if it made the housing uneconomic. The HAC's decision is subject to review in the courts.

A condition or requirement makes housing "uneconomic" if it would prevent a public agency or non-profit organization from building or operating the housing except at a financial loss, or it would prevent a limited dividend organization from building or operating the housing without a reasonable

return on its investment.

A ZBA's decision is "consistent with local needs" if it applies requirements that are reasonable in view of the regional need for low- and moderate-income housing and the number of low-income persons in the city or town, as well as the need to protect health and safety, promote better site and building design, and preserve open space, if those requirements are applied as equally as possible to both subsidized and unsubsidized housing. Requirements are considered "consistent with local needs" if more than 10% of the city or town's housing units are low- or moderate-income units or if such units are on sites making up at least 1.5% of the total private land zoned for residential, commercial, or industrial use in the city or town. Requirements are also considered "consistent with local needs" if the application would result, in any one calendar year, in beginning construction of low- or moderate-income housing on sites making up more than 0.3% of the total private land zoned for residential, commercial, or industrial use in the city or town, or on ten acres, whichever is larger.

The proposed law states that if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

A YES VOTE would repeal the state law allowing the issuance of a single comprehensive permit to build housing that includes low- or moderate-income units.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the state law allowing issuance of such a comprehensive permit.

QUESTION 3: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 4, 2010?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would reduce the state sales and use tax rates (which were 6.25% as of September 2009) to 3% as of January 1, 2011. It would make the same reduction in the rate used to determine the amount to be deposited with the state Commissioner of Revenue by non-resident building contractors as security for the payment of sales and use tax on tangible personal property used in carrying out their contracts.

The proposed law provides that if the 3% rates would not produce enough revenues to satisfy any lawful pledge of sales and use tax revenues in connection with any bond, note, or other contractual obligation, then the

rates would instead be reduced to the lowest level allowed by law.

The proposed law would not affect the collection of moneys due the Commonwealth for sales, storage, use or other consumption of tangible personal property or services occurring before January 1, 2011.

The proposed law states that if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

A YES VOTE would reduce the state sales and use tax rates to 3%.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the state sales and use tax rates.

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this _____ day of _____, 2010.

A true copy

attest: _____

Sarah J. Allen, Town Clerk

Selectmen of West Brookfield

_____, 2010.

Constable

POSTED IN THE FRONT LOBBY FO THE TOWN HALL & OUTSIDE
REAR DOOR

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
THURSDAY
OCTOBER 14, 2010
RESULTS**

Voted to allow the following non-voters to sit with the Board of Selectmen:

Barbara Saint Andre, Town Counsel

Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary

and to allow the following non-voters to speak:

Barbara Saint Andre, Town Counsel

Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary
Jim Daley, Highway Superintendent
Cynthia Henshaw, East Quabbin Land Trust

Article 1

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000.00 to be placed into the Reserve Fund Account.

Article 2

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$184,115.00 to be placed into the M.G.L. Chapter 90 Account.

Article 3

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$50,000.00 to be placed into the “Town Building Maintenance Account”.

Article 4

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000.00 to be placed into the “Town Road Maintenance Account”.

Article 5

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000.00 to be placed into the “Fleet Account”.

Article 6

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$15,000.00 to be placed into the Tax Title Expense Account.

Article 7

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000.00 to be placed into the “Repairs To Private Ways Account”.

Article 8

*A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot.
The vote: unanimous approval*

Voted unanimously to transfer to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of

conveying, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey, the parcel of land located off West Main Street shown on Assessors' Map 23 Parcel 12, further described in a deed recorded at the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 4619, page 292, on such terms as the Board of Selectmen deem to be in the best interests of the Town, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute and deliver a deed or confirmatory deed conveying said property, and to take any and all other actions necessary to carry out this article.

Article 9

Voted unanimously to rescind excess borrowing authorization in the amount of \$57,000.00 which was authorized at the May 13, 2008 Annual Town Meeting, Article 15, to replace a water pipe under the Quaboag River.

Article 10

Voted unanimously to transfer from the Water Surplus Account the sum of \$30,000.00 to be placed in the "Water Department Expense Account".

Article 11

*A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot.
The vote: unanimous approval*

Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$276,000 and, authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen and subject to a positive grant award notification from the "L.A.N.D. Grant Program" of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to take said sum from a "McRevey Family Conservation Restriction Acquisition Account" to be set up with funds to be transferred to the Town by the East Quabbin Land Trust, or its designee, for the purpose of acquiring a conservation restriction, by negotiated purchase, on a certain property, known as the McRevey Family Trust lands consisting of 340 acres, more or less, and shown on West Brookfield Assessors' Map 25, Lot 21 and 22 and Map 31 Lot 5; that said conservation restriction on land be conveyed to said Town of West Brookfield under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8c, and as it may hereafter be amended and other Massachusetts statutes relating to conservation, to be managed and controlled by the Conservation Commission of the Town of West Brookfield; and to authorize the Conservation Commission to file on behalf of the Town of West Brookfield any and all applications deemed

necessary for grants and/or reimbursements from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts deemed necessary under the Chapter 132A, Section 11 and/or any others in any way connected with the scope of this Article; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or Conservation Commission and Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town of West Brookfield to effect said purchase.

Article 12

*A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot.
The vote: unanimous approval*

Voted unanimously to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift or otherwise and to accept the deeds to the Town of drainage and/or other easements in all or a portion of parcels of land located on Wigwam Road upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall determine to be appropriate, in connection with the reconstruction of Wigwam Road, and further to see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for this purpose and any expenses related thereto, and authorize the Board of Selectmen and Town officers to take all related actions necessary or appropriate to carry out this acquisition.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

STATE ELECTION NOVEMBER 2, 2010 RESULTS

GOVERNOR	Vote for one
PATRICK and MURRAY	604
BAKER and TISEI	733
CAHILL and LOSCOCCO	145
STEIN and PURCELL	30
BLANKS	14
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	1,527

Vote for one

ATTORNEY GENERAL

MARTHA COAKLEY	831
JAMES P. MCKENNA	671
BLANKS	25
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	1,527

SECRETARY OF STATE**Vote for one**

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN	828
WILLIAM C. CAMPBELL	592
JAMES D. HENDERSON	61
BLANKS	44
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	1,527

TREASURER**Vote for one**

STEVEN GROSSMAN	606
KARYN E. POLITO	868
BLANKS	51
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	1,527

AUDITOR**Vote for one**

SUZANNE M. BUMP	588
MARY Z. CONNAUGHTON	746
NATHANAEL A. FORTUNE	90
BLANKS	99
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	1,527

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS**Vote for one**

JOHN W. OLVER	705
WILLIAM L. GUNN, JR.	699
MICHAEL ENGEL	78
BLANKS	44
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	1,527

Vote for one

COUNCILLOR

JENNIE L. CAISSIE	824
FRANCIS A. FORD	593
BLANKS	108
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	1,527

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT**Vote for one**

STEPHEN M. BREWER	1,140
DANIEL D. DUBRULE	365
BLANKS	22
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	1,527

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT**Vote for one**

ANNE M. GOBI	999
RODNEY ARVID JOSEPHSON	498
BLANKS	30
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	1,527

DISTRICT ATTORNEY**Vote for one**

JOSEPH D. EARLEY, JR.	1,081
BLANKS	427
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>19</u>
TOTAL	1,527

SHERIFF**Vote for one**

LEWIS G. EVANGELIDIS	739
THOMAS J. FOLEY	558
KEITH E. NICHOLAS	162
BLANKS	68
<u>WRITE INS</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	1,527

QUESTION 1

YES	865
NO	627
<u>BLANKS</u>	<u>35</u>
TOTAL	1,527

QUESTION 2

YES	599
NO	858
<u>BLANKS</u>	<u>70</u>
TOTAL	1,527

QUESTION 3

YES	717
NO	795
<u>BLANKS</u>	<u>15</u>
TOTAL	1,527

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of West Brookfield
****Special Town Meeting******

Worcester, SS.

To Either of the Constables of the Town of West Brookfield in the County of Worcester, Greetings:

In the NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the WEST BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 89 NORTH MAIN STREET in said WEST BROOKFIELD on TUESDAY the FOURTEENTH day of DECEMBER 2010, at 7:00PM then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1

To see if the Town of West Brookfield will vote to appropriate the sum of \$182,820.00 and, authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to take said sum from a “McRevey Family Conservation Restriction Acquisition Account” to be set up with funds to be transferred to the Town by the East Quabbin Land Trust, or its designee, for the purpose of acquiring a conservation restriction, by negotiated purchase, on a certain property, known as the McRevey Family Trust lands consisting of 340 acres, more or less, and shown on West Brookfield Assessors’ Map 25, Lot 21 and 22 and Map 31 Lot 5; that said conservation restriction on land be conveyed to said Town of West Brookfield under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8c, and as it may hereafter be amended and other Massachusetts statutes relating to conservation, to be managed and controlled by the Conservation Commission of the Town of West Brookfield; and to authorize the Conservation Commission to file on behalf of the Town of West Brookfield any and all applications deemed necessary for grants and/or reimbursements from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts deemed necessary under the Chapter 132A, Section 11 and/or any others in any way connected with the scope of this Article; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or Conservation Commission and Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town of West Brookfield to effect said purchase, or take any other action relative thereto. (Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen/East Quabbin Land Trust)

AND you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies at the BULLETIN BOARD in the front entrance way of the TOWN HALL, in said Town, FOURTEEN (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doing thereon, to the Town Clerk, the time and place of meetings, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 16th day of November in the year of our Lord two

thousand ten.

A TRUE COPY. ATTEST:

Selectmen of West Brookfield

Constable

**THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14,
2010 AT 7:00 PM WAS CANCELLED.**

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah J. Allen, Town Clerk



TREASURER

CALENDAR YEAR END BALANCES

Balances of Cash/Investments – December 31, 2009	\$	2,782,002.56
Receipts January 1 to December 31	\$	6,384,695.27
Interest Earned on Investments	\$	25,944.26
Transfers from Trust Fund	\$	343,271.29
Payments per Warrants	\$	(7,088,090.58)
	\$	2,447,822.80

CASH

Country Bank for Savings	\$	1,014,949.25
Country Bank for Savings – Water	\$	40,225.56
North Brookfield Savings Bank	\$	33,235.44
Century Bank & Trust	\$	363,717.78
Mass Municipal Depository Trust	\$	455,960.83
Savers Bank	\$	288,016.49
Smith Barney	\$	251,717.45
Total Cash/Investments, December 31, 2010	\$	2,447,822.80

STABILIZATION FUND

Balance December 31, 2009	\$	1,624,318.78
Interest Earned	\$	40,916.00
Appropriations/Transfers	\$	0.00
Balance December 31, 2010	\$	1,665,234.78

WATER STABILIZATION FUND

Balance December 31, 2009	\$	2,095,124.27
Interest Earned	\$	55,388.89
Appropriations/Transfers	\$	263,977.17
Appropriations/Transfers	\$	(261,341.00)
Balance December 31, 2010	\$	2,153,149.33

FIRE TRUCK STABILIZATION FUND

Balance December 31, 2009	\$	284,129.33
Appropriations/Transfers	\$	(40,000.00)
Interest Earned	\$	7,157.11
Balance December 31, 2010	\$	251,286.44

CONSERVATION FUNDS

Balance December 31, 2009	\$	6,098.03
Interest Earned	\$	153.61
Expenditure	\$	(1,250.00)
Balance December 31, 2010	\$	5,001.64

CURB CUT ESCROW

Balance December 31, 2009	\$	51,608.53
Interest Earned	\$	1,290.10
Deposits	\$	1,000.00
Reimbursements	\$	(4,000.00)
Balance December 31, 2010	\$	49,898.63

REHAB AND SEPTIC ACCOUNT

Balance December 31, 2009	\$	225,211.50
Interest Earned	\$	5,684.55
Participant Payments	\$	2,412.24
Participant Loan	\$	(13,510.00)
Balance December 31, 2010	\$	219,798.29

SELF INSURANCE TRUST FUND

Balance December 31, 2009	\$	25,194.46
Interest Earned	\$	634.64
Appropriation	\$	0.00
Balance December 31, 2010	\$	25,829.10

TRUST FUND BALANCES

Quaboag Park	\$	75,557.34
Pine Grove Cemetery	\$	317,007.46
Merriam Gilbert Library	\$	187,194.00
Fairfax Fund (Ayres Monument)	\$	3,766.89
Margaret Preisach Magnante Fund	\$	31,005.19
Priscilla E. Side Fund	\$	8,782.01
Common Committee Trust	\$	1,793.94
Historical Commission Trust	\$	69,129.26
Recreation Committee	\$	6,889.79
Brady Fund	\$	80.04
Lucy Stone Birthplace Account	\$	820.95
Town Hall Interior Fund – W. Reynis	\$	38,324.97

TRUST FUND INVESTMENT INCOME

Quaboag Park	\$	787.32
Pine Grove Cemetery	\$	8,187.17
Merriam Gilbert Library	\$	4,723.78
Fairfax Fund (Ayres Monument)	\$	94.89
Margaret Preisach Magnante Fund	\$	735.36
Priscilla E. Side Fund	\$	215.78
Common Committee Trust	\$	125.57
Historical Commission Trust	\$	1,672.65
Recreation Committee	\$	169.28
Brady Fund	\$	1.96
Lucy Stone Birthplace Account	\$	20.17
Town Hall Interior Fund – W. Reynis	\$	941.67

TAX TITLE

Tax Title Redemptions	\$	7,074.76
Tax Title Interest	\$	2,242.58
Recovery of Tax Title Expense and Legal Fees	\$	458.38

PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES

Quaboag on the Common	\$	42,832.00
West Brookfield Housing Authority	\$	3,591.76

INTEREST EARNED JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2010

General Funds	\$	25,944.26
Stabilization Funds	\$	40,916.00
Water Stabilization Funds	\$	55,388.89
Fire Truck Fund	\$	7,157.11
Conservation Funds	\$	153.61
Trust Funds	\$	17,675.60
Curb Cut Escrow	\$	1,290.10
Rehab and Septic System Account	\$	5,684.55
Self Insurance Trust Fund	\$	634.64

As in the past several years 2010, Investment income continued a downward trend due to the reduced returns on investments. However, the \$154,844 investment income for all funds is still substantial. The General Fund portion of \$25,944 is available to fund the current year's budget and the other amounts are available

through future appropriations. Much of the Trust Fund's portfolio of government bonds has been "called" reducing the Trust Fund income. The current strategy is to keep most of the Trust's funds in shorter maturing investments to take advantage of rising rates of return in future years.

One of our primary objectives over the past several years has been Capital preservation. By complying with the Town's Investment Policy, we have avoided potential loss of principle funds. In addition, by careful choices and changes we have maximized General Fund Interest income while maintaining all Cash in fully insured accounts and the state managed Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust.

The Town of West Brookfield participates in the Medicare Part D subsidy program. In 2010, the Treasurer's office applied for and received \$3,327.34 to subsidize the health care we provide for our retirees. Applications for future years have been submitted. West Brookfield has been fortunate in that our health care costs for employees and retirees are well below most municipal employers. We have taken several steps to encourage healthier lifestyle choices in an effort to keep employees healthy and reduce utilization of health care.

Many West Brookfield committees continue to receive generous contributions annually from the Irving and Jane England Charitable Trust. Likewise, the bequests from former Town Treasurer, Walter Reynis, for improvements to the Senior Center and Town Hall interior have been exceptionally helpful in completing both projects. It is our understanding the Reynis estate has also provided funding to the Lake Wickaboag Preservation Committee to assist with ensuring the quality of the lake for future generations.

During 2010, the Quaboag Regional School District took advantage of lower interest rates and refinanced its High School debt. With the assistance of MSBA – Massachusetts School Building Authority the debt was paid off early thereby stopping any further debt assessments to either of the member communities. This action saved the Town of West Brookfield a substantial amount of money and also provided a refund of approximately \$154,000. This money was applied against the tax rate in December 2010 and resulted in reduced taxes for fiscal 2011.

Next fiscal year, which begins July 1st, will see a similar benefit. The final debt payment for the West Brookfield Elementary School is less than the annual MSBA grant payment by approximately \$26,000. Effectively both of these school projects are completely paid for.

We continue to resolve many of the outstanding tax title liens by payment or foreclosure. Every effort is made to encourage delinquents to settle their liens. All expenses to effect payment are reimbursed by the delinquent upon final payment. Our office also received several foreclosure judgments in 2010. A new state law allows municipalities to accept a deed in lieu of foreclosure from delinquents. Town Meeting action accepted one parcel this year.

The Treasurer's office continues to assist the Board of Health in administering the Septic System Loan program. A local community bank assists with the billing and collection of quarterly payments. We completed one loan to a West Brookfield resident during 2010.

Recently, the Town updated the website to www.wbrookfield.com. In the future, we expect to post lists of *tailings* (un-cashed checks deemed to be abandoned) as well as other interesting information.

Our department has run smoothly over the past several years. We would like to thank the other departments who have worked co-operatively to provide the best possible service to the West Brookfield community.

In closing, I would like to encourage my fellow West Brookfield citizens in making local government work. By attending Town Meetings twice a year for no more than a few hours, you can demonstrate that democracy by participation still works.

The end of 2010 concluded a successful yearlong celebration of the Quaboag Plantation's 350th Anniversary. We offer heartfelt thanks to all the many people who made it a wonderful and memorable year!

Respectfully submitted,
Keith R. Arsenault



Combined Balance Sheet

June 30, 2010

	General Fund 01	State Aid To Highway 13	Other Special Revenue 14	Water Fund 28	Trust & Agency Funds 82- 84-85-89	Memorandum Only
ASSETS:						
Cash & Investments	\$3,114,937.59				\$5,172,578.37	\$8,287,515.96
<i>Receivable:</i>						
Real Estate Taxes	\$211,276.08					\$211,276.08
Personal Property Taxes	\$27,673.52					\$27,673.52
Less Allowance for Abatements & Exemptions	(\$316,191.50)					(\$316,191.50)
Motor Vehicle Excise	\$118,917.33					\$118,917.33
Supplemental Tax 2005	\$1,423.44					\$1,423.44
Tax Liens Receivable	\$167,214.87					\$167,214.87
Tax Possessions Receivable	\$67,931.09					\$67,931.09
Land of Low Value	\$11,217.62					\$11,217.62
Water Rates Receivable				\$77,694.72		\$77,694.72
Special Revenue Receivable					\$12,445.30	\$12,445.30
Due from Commonwealth		\$280,677.81				\$280,677.81
Due from General Fund		\$280,677.81	\$151,675.69	\$277,978.96	\$19,568.42	\$729,900.88
Amounts Provided For				\$143,000.00		\$143,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,404,400.04	\$561,355.62	\$151,675.69	\$498,673.68	\$5,204,592.09	\$9,820,697.12

LIABILITIES:

Warrants Payable	\$179,567.13					\$179,567.13
Due to Highway Fund	\$280,677.81					\$280,677.81
Due to Special Revenue	\$429,654.65					\$429,654.65
Due to Agency Fund	\$19,568.42					\$19,568.42
Other Liabilities	\$3,043.54					\$3,043.54
Tailings	\$5,051.49					\$5,051.49
Taxes Collected in Advance 2010	\$9,886.29					\$9,886.29
Note Payable				\$143,000.00		\$143,000.00
<i>Deferred Revenue:</i>						
Property Real & Personal	(\$77,241.90)					(\$77,241.90)
Motor Vehicle Excise	\$118,917.33					\$118,917.33
Supplemental Tax	\$1,423.44					\$1,423.44
Tax Liens	\$167,214.87					\$167,214.87
Tax Possession & Land of Low Value	\$79,148.71					\$79,148.71
Water Rates				\$77,694.72		\$77,694.72
Special Revenue					\$12,445.30	\$12,445.30
Commonwealth of Mass.		\$280,677.81				\$280,677.81
<i>Fund Balances:</i>						
Reserved for Encumb.	\$458,728.03	\$280,677.81	\$151,675.69	\$187,866.15		\$1,078,947.68
Reserved for Expend.	\$555,361.26			\$29,836.80	\$5,192,146.79	\$5,777,344.85
Undesignated	\$154,445.00					\$154,445.00
	\$1,018,953.97			\$60,276.01		\$1,079,229.98
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$3,404,400.04	\$561,355.62	\$151,675.69	\$498,673.68	\$5,204,592.09	\$9,820,697.12

TREE WARDEN

The focus of the town's Shade Tree Program is to provide diverse native shade trees that are safe and provide urban/rural ecosystem services such as: aesthetics, water quality, heating and cooling amelioration, and to a certain degree, wildlife habitat. In general, most of the town's shade trees are of good health. However, there are a number of older trees that are dying, have interior stem decay, and that pose a hazard to public safety and risk to private property.

This past year the town responded to the following shade tree management needs:

- The entire downtown shade trees were pruned of dead limbs and obstructive branches prior to the Quaboag Plantation 350th Anniversary Parade.
- 235 trees were identified as dead, dying, hazardous, or needing removal to reconstruct Wigwam Road to meet safety, drainage, and road reconstruction needs. Approximately 138 trees were removed during Phase I of the road reconstruction project. Additionally, in Phase I, 75 trees had dead or obstructive branches pruned for safety purposes. Phase II tree removal and pruning is scheduled for early 2011.
- 38 trees were removed that were hazardous. Tree removal included grinding of stumps or cutting trees as close to the ground as possible in order to maintain aesthetics.

- 12 trees fell during storm events necessitating clean up.
- 3 trees had dead and dying limbs pruned.
- The town identified an additional 25 hazardous shade trees that pose a public safety and personal property threat. These trees have extensive top die-back and severe stem rot. A public hearing will occur in early 2011 prior to scheduling treatment.

There is a need to conduct an annual shade tree inventory and establish a Native Shade Tree Replacement Program.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim DiMaio, Tree Warden



VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER

Massachusetts is the only state in the Union that provides Veterans' Service Officers to help Veterans and their families with the state program, Chapter 115. This program gives assistance to those in need and supports them while having to deal with the Veteran's Administration.

This year marked the passing of a dedicated employee and dear man, Veterans' Service Officer, Edwin LaMontagne. In his capacity as Veterans' Service Officer, Ed was able to provide resources and guidance to many of the town's veterans in need of financial assistance. He will be missed!

I have been appointed by the Board of Selectmen to serve as Veterans' Agent and will strive to continue to provide services to those in need. My office will remain located in the *Senior Center at 73 Central Street*, with office hours from *1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays or by appointment*. If I can be of assistance, please call (508) 867-1407.



Respectfully submitted,
S. Patrick Swain

WATER DEPARTMENT

The Water Commissioners are pleased to submit the following Annual Report for the year 2010. The Water Commissioners are Robert E. Benson, Chairperson; Barry Nadon, Sr.; Lester Paquette; Ronald Marchessault, Superintendent (retired); Wesley Cassavant, New Superintendent; Richard Kennan, Operator; and Jean Wrobel, Clerk/Collector. We may be reached by calling (508) 867-1421 ext. 306 or the Filtration Plant (508) 867-1412.

This year we replaced approximately 100 feet of water main under East Main Street near the Brookfield line. The project was horizontal directional drilling so it saved us from cutting the road, thus not stopping the flow of traffic. The cost of this project was \$74,960.70 and the project was completed in July of 2010.

The Leland Road Well Field Project is still moving forward. The five-day pump test was completed, with the numbers of the drawdown and recharging coming back with positive results.

We are in the process of replacing all of the meters in town with a new radio read meters. We will try to notify all customers with flyers when we will be in their neighborhoods.

This year, we have had a lot of changes, starting with Ronald Marchessault retiring. We would like to thank him for all his time, dedication, and guidance over the years, and we wish Ron a *Happy Retirement!* Also, we would like to welcome our new employee, Richard Kennan to our department as the new Operator. Richard comes to us from the North Brookfield Water Department. We know he will be a great asset to our department.

We continue to update our entire system and thank you for all your support. Supplying the town with quantity and quality water is our goal.

We would also like to thank the Highway Department for their help during this year. Please call (508) 867-1412 with any questions you might have.

Respectfully submitted,
The West Brookfield Water Department

“In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited basis apply to all programs.)

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).”



EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL WHITE CHRISTMAS IN WEST BROOKFIELD

Special thanks are in order for all the members of the committee who donated both their time and energy in order to achieve the success this year's festivities attained. Also, thanks are in order for the Boy Scouts of West Brookfield. Those residents within the proximity of the Common were gracious enough to decorate their homes with white lights, which glistened in the snow adding to the ambience of the day. It certainly was a banner year for White Christmas.

Our celebration included:

- ✿ Three craft shows
- ✿ The participation of all three community churches
- ✿ Businesses' opening for the duration of the day, providing clients with refreshments and free raffles
- ✿ A horse-drawn wagon, which provided rides around the Common
- ✿ "Chestnuts Roasted on an open fire" with Jack Frost clearly nipping at the nose
- ✿ Caroling and lighting of the Christmas Tree

Also on the Common, the Sudbury Militia was entertaining and drilling for the crowds. An outstanding concert, performed by the Quaboag Chorale Society, was held in the Great Hall of the Town Hall. Prior to the concert, the *Good Citizenship Award* was presented to the very much deserved – Richard and Barbara Rossman.

Senator Stephen Brewer and Representative Anne Gobi honored us with their presence and made the presentation at the Concert.

Respectfully submitted,
Madeline R. Arn
White Christmas in West Brookfield



WIRING INSPECTOR

The following is a compilation of the permits received and the inspections done by the Wiring Inspector, for 2010.

- 3 New homes
- 3 Additions
- 2 Renovations
- 10 Service Upgrades
- 5 Garages, Sheds, Barns
- 1 Temporary Service
- 3 Pools and Hot Tubs
- 8 Low Voltage (burglar, fire alarm)
- 2 Photovoltaic Systems
- 7 Miscellaneous
- 2 Generator Installations
- 4 Lightning Protection
- 1 Mobile Home

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Puduski, Wiring Inspector

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals saw a slight increase in activity for 2010 – granting 14 Special Permits. One applicant remains in litigation with the Board.

The Board was represented as follows: Dave Broschart, Chairman; Kevin Dorman and Dick Aube, Members; and George Hibbard and Joan Veinot, Alternate Members.

The Board advises any applicants to purchase a *Zoning By-Law Booklet* before completing the application and submitting it to the ZBA. A letter from the Zoning Enforcement Officer stating that a Building Permit has been denied must be issued before an application can be accepted for a hearing. Applications can be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office. The application must be signed by the Tax Collector stating that all taxes are up to date, as well as other required documents and plans. Applications are reviewed by the Board at their monthly meeting prior to scheduling a public hearing.

The Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Lower Level Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Broschart, Chairman
Kevin Dorman, Member
Dick Aube, Member
George Hibbard, Alternate Member
Joan Veinot, Alternate Member

ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Regular office hours were maintained to assist the Building Inspector to expedite permit-required projects in assuring compliance to the Town of West Brookfield Zoning By-Laws. During the 2010 year, this office has taken and responded to 162 phone calls and 194 email requests.

Sixteen (16) projects were documented and referred to the Zoning board of Appeals (ZBA) for special permit or variance.

Five (5) issues were necessary for me to work with Town Counsel for an opinion due to interpretation of the By-Laws raised during the complaint/project. Four (4) of these have been settled with the homeowners. One (1) is still outstanding.

Two (2) other issues were taken up with Town Counsel for an opinion working with the ZBA.

There were many instances that required letters to be sent to property owners due to zoning issues, complaints, or infractions. In most cases, all of these issues were resolved immediately. However, in some cases, further communication and follow up was needed.

Cooperation and compliance with Zoning By-Laws, decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer, ZBA, Planning Board, and respect for neighbors is appreciated, as it helps to reduce the cost to the Town of West Brookfield when issues can be settled without the need for Town Counsel.

Copies of the Town of West Brookfield Zoning By-Laws are available from the Town Clerk, or you may go to the town web site to view or print them.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary M. Simeone, Zoning Enforcement Officer



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Front & Back Covers: Various photos taken at the 350th Quaboag Plantation Anniversary Parade on September 19, 2010.